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FBIS-SOV-91-181 *18 September 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Worldwide Issues

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives Press Briefing

On RSA Peace Accord, Mideast Talks

LD1709181191 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krolikov, Sergey Ryabikin and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Influential political forces in South Africa confirmed their intention to advance towards creating a democratic non-racist state. Vitaliy Churkin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, assessed in this way a peace agreement signed the other day by representatives of the South African Government, the African National Congress and a number of other South African organisations in order to put a stop to violence in the country.

Churkin told a briefing today in Moscow that the Soviet Union supporting this important political act is prepared to promote political settlement in South Africa, jointly with other members of the international community.

Churkin also said that the Soviet Union takes a positive view of the initiatives made by Afrghanistan's President Najibollah in his speech over national television on September 15. He said these initiatives can help end bloodshed in Afghanistan and embark on a political settlement.

The USSR expects that the Afghan opposition and countries involved in the Afghan conflict "will heed this call of the Afghan leaders and show realism and common sense so much needed in this crucial period for the country."

Churkin said that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov will soon head for Tunisia for consultations in its Foreign Ministry and for meetings with Palestinian representatives. He said that the new round of consultation will be held in keeping with wishes of the Palestinian side and in accordance with wishes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressed in Moscow.

Answering questions from reporters, Churkin said that the Soviet Union welcomes the decision of the two Korean states to join the United Nations. The Soviet side made appropriate statements approving this step as suiting the principles of the United Nations universal character and expressed the hope that their entry into the United Nations will help to realise the dream of all Koreans about the country's unification.

Denies Arms Sales to SFRY

OW1709181191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At today's (September 17) briefing, the head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, Vitaliy Churkin, said that Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko was leaving for Havana in a few days' time in order to discuss a number of issues with the Cuban leadership, including the withdrawal of the Soviet military training brigade from Cuba.

Another Deputy Foreign Minister, Aleksandr Belonogov, is going to Tunisia one of these days in order to hold negotiations with the Tunisian Foreign Ministry and meet Palestinian representatives, including Yasir 'Arafat and Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen). According to Mr. Churkin, the visit is expected to eliminate the remaining obstacles to the convocation of a peace conference on the Middle East.

Dwelling, at DP's request, on the results of the meeting between Mr. Belonogov and the delegation of the Israeli Knesset, Mr. Churkin described it as "fairly successful and useful". He emphasized that the meeting had taken place at a moment when active steps were necessary to convene a peace conference.

Mr. Churkin refuted the reports that the Soviet Union had supplied military helicopters to Yugoslavia. He said no military helicopters had been sent there after 1987, and no civilian aircraft after 1980.

On Reorganization of Foreign Missions

LD1709235191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2230 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Great changes have been envisaged for the Soviet missions of the USSR Foreign Ministry network abroad. Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Information Directorate, reported at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists that a serious reorganization will be carried out shortly. In particular, the term of ambassadors' foreign business tours will not exceed four to five years.

At the same time, cadre changes have been envisaged. In Vitaliy Churkin's words, it is planned to reexamine the appointments to higher diplomatic posts made recently according to political motives, especially the ones made in 1991. It has been planned to send a number of ambassadors, advisers, envoys, and general consulates to the foreign ministries of the Union of Sovereign Republics in order to set up diplomatic service. This information was provided by INFO-NOVA, the independent information service.

Russian Human Rights Chairman Briefs CSCE

LD1709103191 Moscow TASS in English 1907 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Andrey Krasnoshchokov and Vitaliy Menshikov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—"One has to state with regret that the human rights situation in our country can in no way be recognised as satisfactory," Sergey Kovalev, a

prominent human rights campaigner and Academician Andrey Sakharov's associate, who is now the chairman of the Russian Federation Parliament Committee on Human Rights, told a plenary session of the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension here today.

Speaking on behalf of the Soviet delegation, Kovalev said that, ever since the CSCE process originated in the 1970s, many people in this country associated with it their hopes for democratic transformations in the USSR.

"It was precisely in the Soviet Union that the first public groups to promote the implementation of the Helsinki agreements came into being but their activists were subjected to repression.

"At present the situation has radically changed. We hope that, following the failure of the anti-state coup, the processes of democratisation in the USSR will develop more rapidly and in-depth", he said.

Issues concerning the observance of human rights have long ceased to be an exclusively internal affair of any state, Kovalev emphasised.

"It is important to come to realise already now that responsibility for carrying out pledges to ensure human rights either within the framework of a new union of sovereign states or outside it ceases to be an exclusive prerogative of the centre but also rests with republics," he said.

"The evolution of the CSCE process and the establishment of a mechanism to tackle humanitarian issues make it possible to raise the question of a collective responsibility of the CSCE member-states for preventing serious violations in this field, for maintaining and strengthening democratic institutions.

"The Soviet delegation is prepared to cooperate in drafting universally acceptable proposals on that score," Kovalev said.

Calls Baker Address 'Mentorial'

OW1709181991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Kovalev, co-chairman of the Soviet delegation at the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow and chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, gave an exclusive interview to DP, in which he said that the "ministerial" stage of the conference had been "splendid". But not all the speeches were to the point, according to Mr Kovalev. Thus, what James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, had to say was "little more than verbiage, and his tone was rather mentorial as well". Mr Baker's hot air "could not form a basis for any legal provisions".

The speeches made by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin were entirely different. Mr Kovalev described them as revolutionary. Mr Genscher virtually suggested that the consensus principle be abandoned and sanctions be used within the CSCE framework against countries where human rights were violated. "I think this is the only way to build a mechanism for international interference," Mr Kovalev said.

Mr Pankin virtually said, according to Mr Kovalev, that the Soviet Union was willing to listen to criticism and take it into account and would no more ignore it citing the noninterference principle. This principle cannot be applied, Mr Kovalev believes, where human rights are violated. The adoption of this attitude by the Soviet Union is a tremendous step forward, he thinks. Otherwise he would hardly have become co-chairman of the Soviet delegation.

As for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, Mr Kovalev believes this should "undoubtedly" take place "in the very near future". "We should have very friendly relations," he said, at least because nearly 20 per cent of the Israeli population come from the Soviet Union. "President Yeltsin takes the same view," Mr Kovalev emphasized, saying that he had recently discussed the issue with Mr Yeltsin. The establishment of diplomatic relations will, in Mr Kovalev's opinion, "mark a step forward in the Middle East problem as a whole".

Deryabin Notes Human Rights Violations at CSCE

PM1709120391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of IZVESTIYA, TASS, REUTER, INTERFAX, and RIA reports: "There Are Violations of Human Rights in the USSR, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Deryabin Believes"]

[Text] "The Soviet delegation will submit to the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension the question of facilitating the entry of USSR citizens to other countries," the leader of the Soviet delegation at the conference said in an interview with a RIA correspondent. In his opinion, the obstacles which the Western countries are erecting on the path of the movement of citizens of the USSR and other East European states "are causing serious anxiety since they do not accord with the priorities of the individual's rights which they repeatedly declare." Yu. Deryabin noted that in the USSR too there are still cases of the violation of human rights, having in mind unjustified refusals of permission to travel abroad.

CSFR Dismisses SFRY Accusations at CSCE Forum

LD1709230191 Prague CTK in English 2056 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow Sept 17 (CTK correspondent)—A member of the Czechoslovak delegation to the CSCE

human rights meeting in Moscow, Jaromir Novotny, today dismissed accusations by the Yugoslav delegation that Czechoslovakia supports the breakup of Yugoslavia.

In an interview with CTK, Novotny also denied charges by the Yugoslav ambassador to the conference, Vladimir Pavisevic, that Czechoslovakia supplied "separatists" with weapons. Czechoslovakia never supplied any of the sides involved in the fighting and if there were arms deliveries to Yugoslavia in the past they were designated for the federal government, Novotny said.

The Czechoslovak delegation submitted a draft resolution warning against a dangerous escalation of the situation in Yugoslavia and the potential threat of an all-out civil war in Yugoslavia with serious consequences for the country, its neighbours and the whole of Europe. The resolution calls on all the sides embroiled in the conflict to respect the ceasefire agreement.

The Yugoslav news agency "TANJUG", quoting Novotny, said today Yugoslavia was most strongly condemned by Czechoslovakia at the Moscow conference.

Novotny, who took part in the recent mission of the Czech Government and parliament to Croatia, said yesterday he does not consider the Yugoslav conflict an ethnic one but rather a territorial conflict where one side endeavours with the help of violence and terror to strip the other side of parts of its territory regardless of the nationalities inhabiting it.

Shevardnadze Meets Socialist International Leader

OW1209051991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moscow on Wednesday, the head of the Soviet Foreign Policy Association and a founder of the Movement for Democratic Reforms Eduard Shevardnadze met vith Luis Ayala, general secretary of the Socialist International, who reaffirmed the earlier invitation to Shevardnadze extended by the president of Socialist International Willy Brandt to join the Socialist International conference which is to convene in Berlin on September 19. The conference will be attended by the representatives of 30 biggest Socialist and Social Democratic parties from different countries. It is expected to review developments in the Soviet Union. All socialist parties, said Luis Ayala, are interested in obtaining first-hand information to be able to plan the ways to give support to the democratic forces in the USSR. They have closely followed the emergence of the Movement for Democratic Reforms, he stressed. All the parties belonging to the Socialist International are interested in its development and strengthening.

For his part, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the democratic movement in the Soviet Union is interested in establishing business contacts and cooperation with such a powerful organization as the Socialist International. However, said E. Shevardnadze, he would prefer to establish such contacts after the founding congress of the Movement for Democratic Reforms. Nevertheless, this doesn't mean that a representative of the movement's organizing committee will not be present at the Berlin conference of the Socialist International.

China

Halt in PRC's Arms Supply to Cambodia Praised

OW1109030591 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 0900 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Valentinov commentary; from the "Asian Affairs" program]

[Text] Today we will continue to discuss the Cambodian situation which we have mentioned many times.

On 5 September, China announced that it will stop supplying all aid to the Khmer Rouge. A spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that China will no longer supply aid to any opposition faction. Station commentator Valentinov has the following comments on this issue:

I am convinced that various countries in the world will relax after hearing this news. The alliance between China and the Khmer Rouge, which existed for nearly 20 years, has finally ended. However, probably not everyone is happy to hear this news; people should know that the Pol Pot bandit gang used China's weapons to carry out their policy of genocide for several years, and China's military aid prolonged the civil war in Cambodia for many years. In the end, China had to make a decision on whether or not to stop military aid to Cambodia's various factions. China has now made that decision, and it is a contribution to promoting the political settlement of conflicts in Cambodia. In my opinion, from now on there will be no outside factors which can obstruct the conclusion of an agreement among the various factions of that country. The Chinese Government's decision last Thursday will also have a major impact on the international situation in the Far East and Southeast Asia. Shortly after the Chinese Government made this statement, the Vietnamese foreign minister went to Beijing for a formal visit. This is not a coincidence. On the eve of the Vietnamese foreign minister's visit to China, a spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the normalization of relations between China and Vietnam is in accord with the fundamental interests of the two countries and will be conducive to consolidating peace and stability in the Asian region. Before departing for Beijing, the Vietnamese foreign minister also made a similar statement.

Commenting on their statements, observers unanimously pointed out that bilateral relations between China and Vietnam are rapidly improving. This is the first time such a high ranking Vietnamese leader has visited China since the armed conflict between the two

countries in 1979. It seems people can expect relations between China and Vietnam to be fully normalized as soon as the settlement of the Cambodia issue progresses. When this happens, the prospects of peaceful cooperation among countries in the Asian-Pacific region will be brighter. It will also be possible for various countries to jointly guarantee peace in the region.

Rapprochement in Sino-Vietnamese Relations Hailed

LD1209153191 Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS Commentator Sergey Afonin]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's official friendly visit to China was a success and marked by goodwill from both sides. The visit, the first in 12 years of strained relations between the two countries, featured substantive talks and a whole number of fundamental accords.

The Cambodian theme, which was one of the key topics in Sino-Vientamese contacts in recent years, appeared to be given center stage at the present talks as well.

Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng, who received the Vietnamese guest, noted that meaningful progress was made in a political settlement around Cambodia and the normalisation of Sino-Vietnamese relations was put high on the agenda. On the other hand, it is undoubtful [as received] that the improvement of Vietnamese-Chinese relations will, in turn, serve to expedite the quest for ways to dispel the Cambodian conflict.

Accords relating to the sphere of bilateral relations, which were reached during talks in Beijing, evoke great interest. The two countries are planning to resume trade, economic, scientific-technical, cultural and other cooperation. Vietnamese leaders' visit to China this year is certain to become a major event.

The sides defined the basic principles of restoring friendly good neighbourly relations between China and Vietnam. These are the mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-encroachment and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence. Their development in line with these principles will serve the interests of peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

Political climate in South-eastern Asia largely hinges on the state of Sino-Vietnamese relations. The present rapprochement of the two countries is a natural process. The deep-running roots of good neighbourliness and cooperation between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, their interest in each other's success and openness to the world, which is so relevant to the present-day international situation, sent new shoots up.

The normal and full-blooded Sino-Vietnamese relations are a serious factor of stability in the vast Asia-Pacific region.

Northeast Asia

Further Reportage on Medvedev-No Tae-u Talks

LD1709125391 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo September 17 TASS—President No Tae-u of South Korea on Tuesday received Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy Vadim Medvedev.

Medvedev delivered him a message from Gorbachev, in which the Soviet president gave his assessment of expanding and developing Soviet-South Korean relations and his vision of their future.

Medvedev informed the South Korean leader about the situation in the Soviet Union and expressed gratitude for the solidarity the South Korean government and the general public showed during last month's failed coup in the Soviet Union.

No Tae-u expressed satisfaction with the dynamic development of bilateral relations and welcomed the Soviet Union's support for both Koreas's U.N. membership.

He said South Korea will fulfil its agreements with the Soviet Union, including in the finance and credit spheres.

The South Korean president praised the Soviet leadership's foreign policy, which prompted radical changes in international relations.

He wished Gorbachev success in developing cooperation with Soviet republics and pursuing a consistent course in the domestic and foreign policy.

ROK Promises To Honor Obligations

LD1709231991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1830 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] South Korea has confirmed its obligation to cooperate with the Soviet Union on the basis of the existing accords, including the granting of credits up to a total of $3 billion, which has already started. This was stated by No Tae-u, president of the Republic of Korea, when receiving Vadim Medvedev, the USSR president's personal representative, in Seoul.

Khasbulatov Interviewed on Talks With Japanese

PM1709152991 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 p 5

[Report by correspondent N. Tsvetkov: "Khasbulatov in Japan"]

[Text] Tokyo—Despite the fact that the last day of the Russian Supreme Soviet delegation's stay in Japan was no less busy than all the preceding ones, Ruslan Khasbulatov found it in him to meet with Soviet journalists. Correspondents for TASS, IAN, Radio Moscow, NOVOYE VREMYA, and KOMSOMOLSKAYA

PRAVDA drove to Khasbulatov's hotel late in the evening. The conversation involved us all, but, observing the unwritten rules accepted among journalists, I will cite Ruslan Imranovich's answers to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's questions, only where necessary supplementing them with extracts from his statement to representatives of the Japanese mass media and also from his answers to my colleagues' questions.

From his speech in the Japanese journalists' club:

"To be brief, here are our thoughts concerning Japan. First, Russia is an independent entity in international relations And it will build its relations with its closest neighbors independently—with Japan, above all. Second, we cannot build our relations on an old, reactionary doctrine, like relations between victors and vanquished in World War II. We are fully determined to conclude a Russian-Japanese peace treaty. It is clear that, in preparing for this treaty, we must resolve all contradictions including, naturally, territorial ones.

"The stereotype of the past reactionary idea is very developed in Russia's public opinion. As though any concession over territory is a sell-off of national interests. All this has been nurtured by our party-based, ideological doctrines. And we would like to struggle together against these stereotypes and to make public opinion our ally in the matter of implementing fair relations with the Japanese people."

[Unidentified correspondent] Ruslan Imranovich, what was the attitude of the Japanese to you?

[Khasbulatov] You know, I would not want to say that all went well. During the first stage, as I saw it, they were guarded, sizing us up as it were. At the second stage some trust emerged. And the final stage, today—my meeting with the foreign minister struck me as very constructive. It seems to me that the level of trust has risen. But I certainly do not overrate the results of our visit. I would like more concrete results in the matter of giving assistance, but quite honestly, I have not received such assurances. I do not want to say that I am disappointed, but I have not felt any particular optimism. And it seems to me that the Japanese side is losing out in this matter. I have understood from statements that they are still trying to orient themselves to the Soviet Union and Gorbachev. But you know that Gorbachev's very best, most earnest defenders are Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, and Silayev. We have no contradictions now. It seems that this reality is not yet getting through to the Japanese ruling circles, and they picture the world the way it existed prior to the coup.

From a reply to a Japanese journalist:

"It is our position that the center must retain several functions. First, there is the defense function, taking account of the fact that ours is a nuclear missile country. Second, energy; then the railroad transport system, space communications, certain enterprises associated with the production of strategic output...and that is practically all, plus global political problems, even ecology. As regards all other questions, including foreign policy and the economy, Russia will henceforth implement this itself. This has to be understood. The sooner we understand this, the better it will be.

"...They had an accord there, in London, that they would together help the Soviet Union. But after London there was the coup d'etat, and they are guided by the gentleman's agreements, so to speak, concluded at the London meeting of 'the seven.' Prior to London I had a lengthy conversation with Mikhail Sergeyevich. I put it to him: For God's sake, don't ask for credits, for God's sake, don't ask for loans! All we need is investment capital. That is, direct investments. And he, I must tell you this, understood this. He did not ask. But the situation is changing. It is changing completely, and not through our fault. The situation is different now, and the Japanese ruling circles ought, of course, to take account of these circumstances."

From a reply to a TASS correspondent:

"The Americans are ready to give us assistance. Up to $50 billion. They understand our situation perfectly. I sent a personal message to U.S. congressmen. They said this: If Mr. Khasbulatov says so, we believe him."

[Unidentified correspondent] Does it not seem to you that if you had brought to Tokyo a message not only from Yeltsin but also from Gorbachev, the approach of the Japanese would have been different?

[Khasbulatov] No, I did not wish to bring any message from Gorbachev. I am not Gorbachev's emissary. I am Russia's emissary.

[Unidentified correspondent] When will President Yeltsin come to Japan?

[Khasbulatov] I think that Boris Nikolayevich would like to come. He will come when the conditions are appropriate. But I would like to point out that my visit is not subordinate to a future visit by the Russian president. The thing is that I was invited by Mr. Ozawa (former general secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party—N.Ts.) eight months ago. I deemed it necessary to come now to the state that we consider our most important partner, ally, and neighbor. When I told Boris Nikolayevich that I was flying to Japan, he was even amazed: There are so many things to do in our country. I know, I replied, but you and I do not have any more important matters, so please write a message about relations with Japan, and I will hand it over to the premier. The Russian leadership has a common position. A position aimed at constructively resolving our complex problems. [Khasbulatov ends]

From a reply to Japanese journalists who asked about Ruslan Khasbulatov's attitude to G. Yavlinskiy's statements on the territorial question and the proposal to conclude an economic alliance among the republics:

"I believe that I am the only politician in the Soviet Union with a sharply negative attitude to this boy. He is forever poking his nose in where he is not wanted...

"We are generally fed up with this name, which is mentioned in connection with our reforms which have nothing to do with him. But if you like him so much, maybe you will take him in yourselves?"

[Unidentified correspondent] Ruslan Imranovich, did you not make a slip by calling Japan an ally?

[Khasbulatov] Why not? I consider it an ally. I did not make a slip.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will Russia curtail its military presence in the Far East?

[Khasbulatov] Undoubtedly. I wish to remind you that, addressing a session of the Union Supreme Soviet, I proposed cutting the military budget by 50 billion rubles this very year, and not at the expense of personnel. Not at the expense of the pay of officers and ensigns—they already live in poverty in our country—but at the expense of military bases and the arms race. Of course, we will work to reduce the military infrastructure in the Far East. I do not think that we are threatened with any danger from Japan. It is simply absurd to build some defensive structures in the belief that Japan might attack us. In any case, I will use all my influence to reduce the military infrastructure here.

From a reply to an IAN correspondent:

"We do not link the resolution of these (political, territorial—N.Ts.) questions to any others, but nonetheless we would like the Japanese side to set an example of its involvement in resolving our very complex questions. Therefore, although this is unpleasant, I had to speak of large-scale economic assistance from the Japanese state and the Japanese public.

"We need $8-15 billion. I believe that this emergency assistance could start in December.

"We are prepared to enlist international experts to ensure distribution. Bureaucracy and corruption are very developed in our country, and I understand their fear that this will go not to the people but somewhere to fatten our opponents.

"The coup d'etat failed. But can you and I guarantee that the next coup will fail? I doubt it. I agree, Yeltsin and I are both under sentence of death, so to speak. But they will drive you out too! For the simple fact that you are talking with me. We are, unfortunately, bound with the same rope. I would like this thought to prevail among the Japanese public: We must help. Regardless of how the question of the territories takes shape."

South Kurils Presidium Appeals to Yeltsin, Japan

LD1809040591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Kurilsk, 16 Sep (TASS)—The Presidium of Yuzhno-Kurilskiy Rayon has appealed to the Russian government and the Japanese people. It says, among other things: The population of the south Kurils, where several generations of Soviet people have grown up, considers it to be their homeland, and an integral part of Russia. The political adventurism of the former leaders of the Soviet Union and Japan during World War II and afterward cannot serve as a basis for a proposed solution to the present territorial problems, due to the realities of the situation and of a violation of international human rights acts.

There are major Far East fishing combines situated in the South Kurils, as well as the unique Kurilskiy nature reserve, and a total of 1.1 million tonnes of fish and sea products are caught in the south Kurils fishing zone every year. The economic impact of handing over the islands is not clear. The inhabitants of the south Kurils appeal to Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President Boris Yeltsin, to the government and the people of Japan, as well as to world public opinion, to take into account the rights and interests of the islands' population, to not ignore them, and study the socioeconomic aspects of the problem in a more detailed manner.

Soviet Ship Carries 130 Japanese to Kuriles

LD1709215191 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Prokhorov]

[Text] Tokyo September 17 TASS—A group of 130 members of the Japanese public organisation "Peace Ship" on Tuesday left Niigata for the first trip without visas to the disputed Kurile islands off northern Hokkaido on board the Soviet ship Antonina Nezhdanova.

During the trip, which will last till September 27, the Japanese tourists will meet local residents and Soviet soldiers serving their military duty on the islands, as well as hold festivities.

A proposal to allow Japanese people travel to the "northern territories" without visas was made during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan on April 18, 1991 and was included into a Soviet-Japanese joint statement.

The Japanese government, however, permitted such trips only for former residents of the islands, journalists and representatives of public organisations while prohibiting trips for trade and economic purposes.

Near East & South Asia

Primakov Arrives in Tehran With Gorbachev Message

LD1709134991 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, personal representative of the USSR president, arrived in Tehran on a three-day visit. He handed a message from Mikhail Gorbachev to the Iranian leadership and will tell them about the development of events in the Soviet Union.

An important part of the talks will center on the development of Soviet-Iranian economic cooperation.

Yevgeniy Primakov arrived in Iran from Kuwait. Before that he visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, and from Tehran he will head for Turkey.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD1709173791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Primakov, Gorbachev's adviser and special envoy, arrived in Tehran today to hand over a message from the president of the Soviet Union to our country's President.

In his meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati he elaborated on the recent crisis in the Soviet Union and the current situation in that country. He offered his appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for adopting a wise stance with regard to the Soviet Union's recent crisis. He also stressed the willingness of his country's officials in expanding ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In return Velayati said: We have established good relations with the Soviet Union and Gorbachev has played an important part in this matter. We are determined to continue these ties.

Referring to the Afghan issue, Velayati welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to stop sending arms to Afghanistan. He said that already positive efforts have been initiated to solve the Afghan problem, including holding two triparite meetings in Islamabad and Tehran with the participation of Pakistan, Iran, and the Afghan mojahedin leaders. Fortunately, in this regard the UN secretary general has exerted positive efforts. If the trend continues, those opposing these efforts will be isolated more than ever before.

In reply Primakov said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to solve the Afghan problem are very important. We believe you are making endeavors to stop bloodshed in Afghanistan.

At the end of his talks he expressed the hope that the ministers of foreign affairs of Iran and the Soviet Union will meet to exchange views during the forthcoming meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Today Primakov also met Besharati, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Va'ezi, deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of European and American affairs.

Chernavin Assures Syria on Military Cooperation

LD1809074791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1742 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Text] Damascus, 17 Sep (TASS)—All Moscow's obligations on military cooperation with the Syrian Arab Republic remain in force. This was stated to a TASS correspondent by Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the USSR Navy, deputy USSR minister of defense, in an interview held on board the large antisubmarine vessel Kerch in the Syrian port of Latakia.

Summarizing the results of an official visit by a Soviet military delegation to Syria which ended today, V. Chernavin indicated: "Our approaches to relations with the Syrian side in the military sphere have not undergone, and evidently will not undergo in the near future, fundamental change. These relations were, and evidently will be aimed, at the further development of cooperation in the military sphere, which corresponds to the general nature of relations between our states. During the talks held here I acquainted our Syrian conversation partners with this conclusion, including Minister of Defense Mustafa Talas."

V. Chernavin did not agree with assertions that the Syrian leadership has been dissatisfied in recent years at the level of military cooperation with the USSR. "I would not give such a pessimistic assessment of the great work in which we are engaged with our Syrian friends," he said. "There are problems, of course. There are many of them. They have to be overcome, and we will do this without lowering the level of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere."

Admiral Chernavin named among the existing problems the transition to accounting in freely convertible currency which has proved painful both for the USSR and for our foreign partners. However, he stressed, we are moving firmly toward the market, so it is necessary to find forms of economic interaction more quickly, which will assist market mechanisms. If we preserve the previous structures of cooperation, then we will make the situation even more entangled.

The cooperation between the navies of both countries, V. Chernavin noted, has long attained a stable nature on an equal rights basis. Our relations are developing on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. The Syrian Navy is armed mainly with vessels and military hardware of Soviet manufacture, and this means that it is necessary to maintain this equipment properly and to assist the training of highly-qualified Syrian specialists, he said.

"We are also tackling common operational and tactical tasks, and cooperating in the Mediterranean, where our country does not have its own immediate bases," the Soviet military commander indicated. "At the Syrian port of Tartus there is a facility for the technical maintenance and the replenishment of stores of Soviet naval vessles. They systematically pay visits there for brief overhauls and for the relaxation of personnel. ! should note that the Syrians invariably show us sincere cordiality and hospitality," the commander in chief of the USSR Navy said in conclusion.

Belonogov Meets With Israeli Knesset Delegation

LD1709103991 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksander Belonogov today met visiting Israeli parliamentary delegation comprising representatives from various factions, led by Knesset commission head Mikha'el Kleiner.

They discussed prospects for Soviet-Israeli relations and the situation in the Middle East in the context of efforts to convene a peace conference co-chaired by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Belonogov Meeting With 'Arafat Possible

LD1809074191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0658 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By TASS doplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep (TASS)—A discussion of the state of bilateral relations and their prospects and the question of holding a peace conference on the Middle East are the aims of USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov's visit to Tunis and Algiers which begins today. He was interviewed by a TASS correspondent.

This is Aleksandr Belonogov's first visit to Tunis and Algiers and he hopes to "fill in a gap" in his contacts with the states of the region which he looks after in the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The deputy foreign minister said that in Tunis he expects to hold talks with representatives of the Palestinian leadership. Aleksandr Belonogov did not elaborate on precisely who he will meet, but did not rule out the possibility of his meeting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Najibollah Cited on Need for Afghan Cease-Fire

PM1709120191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Single Edition p 3

[TASS report under heading "Afghanistan": "Cease-Fire Declared"]

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the adoption of the Soviet-U.S. joint statement right from the start, republic President Najibollah said Sunday. Speaking on national radio and television, he stressed that this statement could ensure conditions for a halt in military actions and the achievement of peace and freedom for the Afghan people to express their will with a view to establishing a new political and economic structure in Afghanistan.

As of the present time, Najibollah indicated, there can be no doubt that the first step toward establishing favorable conditions for the start of an all-Afghan dialogue is a cease-fire. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to declare a cease-fire over the country's entire territory. To this end provincial governors general and armed forces commanders have been ordered to collaborate with authoritative local figures and clergy in making contact with the commanders of armed formations on the opposing side and to take practical steps to achieve a cease-fire at the provincial level. The government is prepared to sign an agreement with opposition field commanders not to use heavy weapons, which cause the heaviest casualties. We appeal to the opposing side's leaders to comply with the Afghan people's wishes and reply positively to the peace proposal.

We appeal to the opposition commanders' council, as one of the principal parties taking part in a political settlement, to come to the negotiating table in order to formulate new and favorable terms for ending the war. I hope that the council will discuss this proposal and be prepared to take practical steps. We also propose to the leaders of groups based in Pakistan and Iran that they should open missions in Kabul or the provinces in order to accelerate the process of peaceful talks.

At this crucial moment, Najibollah said, I want to appeal to the former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Khan, his supporters, and representatives of the intelligentsia in exile to take energetic measures to accelerate the process of political settlement. At the same time we resolutely state that, if any of the armed formations on the opposing side attempts to exploit this situation to exert military pressure, then the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces will defend the Afghan people's peaceful life.

TASS Assesses Afghan Peace Possibilities

LD1709101691 Moscow TASS in English 1526 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul September 16 TASS—President Najibollah of Afghanistan, speaking on the national television network, has assessed the joint Soviet-American statement on Afghanistan as "a responsible step of the two great powers and guarantors of the Geneva Accords". He said the local army commanders and administrative leaders were ordered to "take practical ceasefire steps" unilaterally.

TASS international affairs analyst Yuriy Tyssovskiy writes in this connection:

In principle, the Afghan president's initiative is by no means sensational. Nevertheless, foreign news services have devoted much attention to it. Apparently, Kabul regards the ceasefire and eventual discontinuation of hostilities throughout the country as a prelude to a genuine political settlement of the Afghan problem. It is pertinent to recall, however, that this proposal is by no means new. Ceasefire offers, as far as I remember, were made on no less than 10 occasions during the past three years. They were always bluntly rejected by the armed Afghan opposition in Peshawar. It staked on an armed "solution" of the bloody conflict. Nobody had any doubts about its position in this case, too.

A FRANCE PRESSE report has confirmed the worst apprehensions. Referring to an alleged "consensus" among leaders of the armed opposition in Peshawar, one of the irreconcilable "Afghan resistance" movement leaders Borhanoddin Rabbani rejected Najibollah's initiative. The mojahedins obviously believe the stopping of Soviet arms deliveries to Kabul will undermine the combat capacity of the Afghan Army much more than of their own troops, if they get no more arms from Washington. Hence, they think, the victory is close, and the armed opposition intends to press for it right away.

Some political analysts are already prepared to write off the Kabul regime. But isn't this a premature conclusion? Its inevitable downfall was predicted also when Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan on February 15, 1989. If the armed confrontation continues after January 1, 1992, Kabul will have to resort to free arms markets, including those that are to be found on the territory of Pakistan, and which, as shown by facts, the Pakistani Government is unable to control. There are also other markets, while money for such purchases can always be found. I don't want to sound overpessimistic, but Peshawar's stand leads to an inevitable expansion of the fratricidal war in a neighbouring country.

Sub-Saharan Africa

S. African Party Leader Reviews Recent Visit

LD1709092591 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS— "In the future, Russia will evidently play an ever enhancing role in foreign political affairs, and I hope it will have good relations with South Africa," Colin Eglin, the leader of the parliamentary faction of South Africa's Democratic Party, said upon concluding his one-week visit to the Soviet Union.

"Everybody I encountered in the Soviet Union expressed confidence that political and economic transformations that began under perestroyka will yield positive results," Eglin told TASS.

He could form a fairly broad idea of the processes underway in the Soviet Union during meetings with politicians and public figures in the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the Russian parliament.

Eglin had talks with Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, President of the Foreign Political Association Eduard Shevardnadze and members of the Russian parliament's International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Committee. He had a telephone conversation with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Soviet Liberal Democratic Party.

The South African politician focused on the new political power structures that are being created in the country and the changing distribution of powers between the centre and the republics.

"It is now clear to me," he stressed, "that real power is being delegated from the centre to republics, including Russia."

In the future this republic, he said, "is likely to make its own decisions in the foreign policy field, including on the opening of consulate offices in different countries".

Eglin said he was optimistic about prospects for trade and economic relations between South Africa, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation.

Russia has immense economic potential, he noted, and "I believe that South Africa can establish large-scale contacts with this republic".

Eglin pointed out that all people he had met expressed interest in developing bilateral relations. "We agreed to maintain regular contacts," Eglin said.

East Europe

Removal of Arms Dumps From Europe Poses Problems

PM1809082591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Shells Go by Sea"]

[Text] Whoever has served in the Western Group of Forces knows that during the 45 years of our stay there we established many depots and storehouses of various kinds. They now present one of the chief difficulties during the group's withdrawal. It is necessary to lift and ship out tens of thousands of tonnes of materiel.

But the ammunition and explosives are particularly complex to transport. They require specially equipped railcars, trucks, and seagoing ships.

A special group has been set up at the withdrawal headquarters to organize and ensure the entire volume of work on evacuating the explosive freight. It is cooperating closely with the German side.

West Europe

Gorbachev Briefs Socialist International Delegates

LD1709220491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1756 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—It is officially announced here today that on 17 September M.S. Gorbachev had a prolonged friendly conversation in the Kremlin with a delegation of the Socialist International, comprising: P. Mauroy, first secretary of the French Socialist Party, vice chairman of the Socialist International; B. Enholm, chairman of the Socialist Democratic Party of Germany; P. Paasio, chairman of the Socialist Democratic Party of Finland; A. Guerra, deputy secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party; and A. Ayala, secretary general of the Socialist International.

Greeting the guests, M.S. Gorbachev noted: Our meeting is being held at a very important moment, when the country and our people have overcome a big and difficult stage. Only now are we aware in full measure of where we have been, what we are dealing with, and what we are heading for. A totalitarian system, a utopian leftist-radical model of society is in the process of being dismantled. Such a process cannot be painless.

For a number of years we endeavored to gain time, in order to prevent an acute confrontation, so that society might become capable of withstanding any attempt to turn back. Not everyone understood this tactic. But on the whole we succeeded in this. Our society of today cannot now be turned back.

But now we must get out of the state of victory euphoria as quickly as possible. We have many problems, they are entirely real, and since the putsch they have even been aggravated. Many of them have to be tackled in a new way, and this is precisely what society expects. M.S. Gorbachev informed his interlocutors in detail of the decisions agreed at the session of the State Council on 16 September, and of the measures mapped out for their implementation.

Summing up his comments, he drew this conclusion: A positive process has now started moving. Centripetal trends are more and more noticeable. By this I mean a desire to preserve the necessary economic, scientific, and cultural ties between the sovereign republics and to keep the unity of the armed forces. The impetus is coming both from the State Council and from the republics. This is very important.

The processes of regrouping political forces are simultaneously in train. The CPSU was in a very difficult position after the August events. Not only did its leading bodies not oppose the plotters; some members of the leadership directly supported them. In these conditions, M.S. Gorbachev went on, I had no other choice than to renounce the post of general secretary of the Central Committee and to propose to the Central Committee that it disband itself and give communists the opportunity to define where they stood. This process is under way. The Democratic Party of Communists of Russia is gaining strength. Other, new political forces and organisations, such as the Movement for Democratic Reforms and the Democratic Party of Russia, are growing simultaneously.

Our departure from the old models of society, which had discredited themselves and led the country into a dead end, does not mean that we have abandoned the socialist idea altogether. As president, I do not consider it possible for me to conceal this conviction of mine. But at the same time, I have understanding for the existence of other ideas and for the commitment of a part of society to those ideas.

Of course, speaking of the socialist idea, its implementation will lead to the birth of new forms of life in our country. But the foundation, undoubtedly, must be the rights of the individual, human freedoms, democracy and glasnost.

After greeting the USSR president, P. Mauroy stressed that socialists and social democrats from the outset followed most attentively the processes of the renewal of Soviet society, and have supported them. The Socialist International resolutely opposed the putsch and backed the restoration of legality. Today too, the parties forming part of the International follow the country, which has embarked upon a new stage of development, with no less attention or sympathy, and wish it success in advancing the reforms and seeking ways of creating a society that accords with the interests of Soviet people and the conditions in the country. I am sure, P. Mauroy said, that your democratic society will fit into the framework of the socialist movement that is developing both in Europe and throughout the world.

The USSR president then answered questions from the guests. They related both to internal processes within the USSR and to a number of issues in international politics. Thus, B. Engholm inquired about the prospects for ridding Europe of nuclear weapons. As for tactical nuclear means, that task is clearly feasible, M.S. Gorbachev replied. But as for strategic nuclear weapons, their elimination—to which we are still dedicated—is possible only within the framework, and as a result, of the joint efforts not only of the USSR and the United States, but also of all the nuclear powers.

P. Paasio raised the point that, evidently, the necessary flexibility will have to be shown during the transformations, the program for which exists; and that, above all, the logic of development will have to be followed. M.S. Gorbachev fully supported this. In general, society must not be coerced, he said. Its progress must be natural, based on positive trends, and it must create favorable conditions for human life and give the individual the

opportunity to show his potential. New forms of life, even those which have become inevitable, must not be imposed by force, either.

Finally, answering A. Guerra's question whether he views the future with optimism or pessimism, the USSR president said: I am convinced that everything we are doing is necessary for our country and the whole world. I do not see the country's future or its prosperity without perestroyka. For this reason, I remain optimistic, although I am aware of the complexity of the work that lies ahead.

In conclusion, P. Mauroy, after again wishing success for the renewal of Soviet society, said: You know, we believe you; we are with you. And we are not detached observers. We are keenly interested, from the point of view of our everyday struggle, in everything that you are doing in your country.

Through the members of the delegation, M.S. Gorbachev conveyed wishes for the success of the session of the council of the Socialist International, which is due to take place in Berlin, and expressed certainty regarding the benefits of continuing the dialogue and cooperation with the Socialist International and with the parties belonging to it.

Comments on Socialist Transformations

LD1709214891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev today received a delegation of the Socialist International in the Kremlin, headed by Pierre Mauroy, a member of the leadership of this organization.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Beletskiy] This international organization of social democracy unites 90 parties from more than 40 countries. Moreover, socialists are at the head of the governments in the majority of these countries. Naturally, issues connected with the process of transformation in our country have been discussed at the meeting. Guests expressed their support for the reforms directed at the creation of a market economy and the strengthening of democracy and freedom.

[Unidentified speaker] Is it possible to regard this meeting as being one of the variants of the search for the socialist path in its new form?

[Gorbachev] You know, this meeting was planned long ago. To make a long story short, this is the implementation of the long-standing agreement. That is why this is an old debt which must be paid. That is why these are all my old acquaintances. In general, these are people I feel close to in a certain way, proceeding from the fact that these people adhere to the socialist idea.

[Beletskiy] Replying to a question on the problems of the security of nuclear strategic weapons in the new union, Gorbachev said:

[Gorbachev] Within the framework of all these processes of ours connected with the achievement of a new treaty on the Union of Sovereign States—we discussed a draft economic treaty among the republics in the first reading yesterday—a lot of problems are being discussed here. What will happen to this? What will happen to that? Naturally, a question arises about how the armed forces will be controlled in the future? Almost 11 republics spoke in favor of a single armed forces. While there are may be some discussions concerning ground troops, there is a total mutual understanding concerning military and strategic potential. That is that. It should be in single control. That is how it will be. I am convinced of this. [end recording] [video shows Gorbachev greeting Socialist International representatives, replying to questions]

Pankin Holds Talks in Sweden En Route To UNGA

Previews Visit, UN Attitude

LD1709205891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1723 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin believes that the "main feature" of the Soviet delegation's participation in the 46th session of the UN General Assembly is the fact that the Soviet representatives are setting off for New York almost right after the dramatic August events in the USSR, the anticonstitutional coup d'etat attempt staged in the country by reactionary forces. Speaking to a TASS correspondent at Vnukovo Airport today before his departure on a working visit to Stockholm, the minister said that the participation in the session's work will make it possible to show a picture of what happened and to demonstrate the complex political and economic situation in the country.

From Stockholm, the minister will set off for the United States, where he will head the Soviet delegation at the 46th UN General Assembly session.

He said that it has been decided this time to renounce the past practice when the Soviet delegation went to the routine UN General Assembly session "with a set of sensational proposals." It is necessary to concentrate on strictly practical aspects of the execution of the world community's decisions and on the concrete fulfillment of the urgent tasks facing us today. That is where the purpose of our activity in New York must lie, he believes.

Boris Pankin noted the great importance of the fourth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the USSR and Union republics, which ended in Moscow at the end of last week, for cooperation between the Union and republican foreign ministries in the elaboration of a mechanism for the state's foreign policy and in activities in international structures, specifically in the United Nations.

The minister said that he had "warm" memories of his work in the post of USSR ambassador to Sweden and is

going there with "nostalgic feelings." During his stay in the Swedish capital, he will hold talks with Swedish state and political figures. The Soviet-Swedish dialogue on a wide range of European and world problems and on bilateral relations will be continued.

Departs on Visit to Sweden

LD1709160291 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin today left for Stockholm on a working visit.

The Soviet and Swedish foreign ministers are expected to continue the Soviet-Swedish dialogue, compare the two countries' approaches to European and world problems and discuss the state of bilateral relations.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS that Pankin's visit aims to "attract attention of the Soviet public to Sweden's experience in the social and economic development."

From Stockholm, the Soviet foreign minister is expected to leave for New York to attend the 46th UN General Assembly.

Arrives in Stockholm

LD1709203491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1809 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm, 17 Sep (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrived in the Swedish capital today on a working visit. At Arlanda Airport he was met by Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson.

On Wednesday morning the heads of the two countries' foreign policy departments will hold talks. There will be discussion of problems in European and world politics and the development of bilateral relations.

The Soviet minister will be received by Thage Peterson, speaker of the Riksdag (parliament), and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, and will meet the leaders of political parties and representatives of business circles of Sweden.

Noncommittal on Ambassador's Recall

LD1709204591 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 2000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrived in Stockholm this evening for a working visit of just over two days. Gunnilla Norrman reports:

[Norrman] The question was whether the present ambassador, Nikolay Uspenskiy, would also be on board the aircraft. Following the failed coup attempt in the Soviet Union, Uspenskiy was recalled to Moscow. He had not, like his predecessor Boris Pankin, dissociated himself from the coup-makers. And many are now asking whether he will be able to keep his post as ambassador to Stockholm. This is what was said by the man who chose the right side during the dramatic days of the coup, Foreign Minister Boris Pankin:

[Begin Pankin recording in Russian fading into Swedish translation] Nikolay Uspenskiy is still in Moscow, and we will see whether he will return to Stockholm. He is just now thinking about the matter, Pankin said. And then he jumped into the waiting limousine together with Foreign Minister Sten Andersson with whom he is going to have discussions tomorrow morning.

Holds Talks With Andersson

LD1809112291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1015 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm, 18 Sep (TASS)—A meeting has begun here between the foreign ministers of the USSR and Sweden. During the talks, Boris Pankin and Sten Andersson will compare the two countries' approaches to the processes of world and European politics. According to the Swedish Telegraph Bureau, the main topics of the conversation are the situation in the Soviet Union, bilateral relations, and the situation in Yugoslavia and the Middle East. Today, the Soviet minister, who arrived in Stockholm on a working visit on Tuesday evening, will be received by the head of the Swedish Government Ingvar Carlsson.

Mutual respect, practicality, and frankness are characteristic of the Soviet-Swedish dialogue. Its tone was set by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting in Moscow earlier this month with the heads of the foreign political departments of the northern European countries.

Kohl Urges Leaders to Decide on Future Government

LD1709224291 Moscow TASS in English 1023 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington September 17 TASS—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has called upon the leadership of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and all other presidents of republics, to decide on the future system of government in the Soviet Union as soon as possible, in a news conference held at the White House after being received by U.S. President George Bush on Monday.

Kohl, on a private visit to the United States, made it plain that the indefinite character of state structures in the USSR create difficulties for the West in targeting economic aid. "We cannot discuss economic aid and other aspects of the problem, as they affect the entire union, for instance, problems on energy supply and generation of energy in the Soviet Union," he said.

Kohl said the West "can only help the USSR to help itself." Economic reforms should be implemented as soon as possible. He said that during the negotiations with President Bush he emphasised more than once that it would be far less costly to give humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union now than to put it off until later.

Kohl also said that when he mentions aid, he bears in mind not only the USSR, but also other new democracies of Eastern Europe—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary. Kohl also said Germany cannot be the chief source of this aid. He noted that from 1989 Germany has allocated 63 billion German marks for these purposes, including the construction of housing for Soviet forces withdrawn from East Germany.

"I want everybody to realise that Federal Germany has strained its resources to the utmost. We cannot provide such large sums indefinitely. Other countries which also stand to gain from peaceful developments in the Soviet Union should contribute, too."

Economic Committee's Luzhkov To Talk With EC, G7

LD1709100291 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Economic Management Committee, will fly to Brussels and then London on Tuesday, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told journalists during intermission in the meeting of the Soviet State Council.

According to Pankin, Luzhkov will conduct talks with the leaders of the European Community and the world's seven leading industrialized countries on stepping up emergency economic aid to the Soviet Union.

Latin America & Caribbean

GRANMA Complaint of 'Unilateral' Pullout Assessed

PM1709121391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Correspondent A. Moiseyev report under the "World and Politics" rubric: "Did F. Castro Write the Article? GRANMA: 'Cuba Will Never Be Surrendered or Sold to the United States'"]

[Text] Havana, 15 Sep—All the indications are that the Cuban leaders have decided to take up a tougher position on what they are stressing here is a unilateral decision by the USSR supreme leadership on the phased withdrawal from the island of the Soviet military contingent. This is evidenced, for example, by a lengthy editorial in the latest issue of the semiofficial newspaper GRANMA, the headline of which, picked out in red, proclaims pathetically: "Cuba Will Never Be Surrendered or Sold to the United States."

It becomes apparent from the content of the editorial that the Cuban leadership is expressing its unhappiness and irritation primarily at the fact that Moscow made the decision to withdraw Soviet troops from Cuba unilaterally, without consulting Havana beforehand.

The article, which is thought here to have been written by the leader Fidel Castro himself, reproachfully recalls the events of 1962, when N.S. Khrushchev, in striving to take the heat out of the dramatic situation of the Cuban crisis, also made a decision to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba, thus ignoring the plans and opinions of Cuba's leadership. GRANMA is often sharply critical of U.S. policy, noting at the same time that the U.S. Government now considers itself "master of the whole world" and is trying to make the Soviet Union cast Cuba on the mercy of fate, in order to deal at a later stage with its revolution.

Giving a high evaluation of the contribution that Soviet servicemen have made to the formation of their republic's armed forces, the Cuban authorities are proposing that talks should start on the simultaneous withdrawal from the island both of our own and the U.S. military personnel located at the U.S. base at Guantanamo. Cuba, GRANMA indicates, is ready to conclude an international agreement sponsored and guaranteed by the United Nations. However, with regard to the USSR leaders' unilateral decision to withdraw the training brigade, this is tantamount to giving the the United States the green light to realize its aggressive plans toward Cuba, the GRANMA editorial article notes.

PRAVDA Calls for 'Real Policies' Toward Cuba

PM1809105591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Single Edition p 7

[Pavel Bogomolov article under "My Opinion" rubric: "Cuban Dilemmas"]

[Text] "Well, buddy, it's Cuba's turn now," a friend said to me the other day, hinting at the inevitability of some unrest in that far-off tropical land. I must admit that this phrase sounded somewhat sad, even though my friend has no particular sympathy for "Havana-style socialism." Sad probably because memories of the legendary triumph of the 1959 Cuban revolution and sympathy for its pioneers are still alive in many of us, irrespective of our personal political views and convictions.

Yes, some three decades ago we all looked enthusiastically to Cuba. We believed that the Cubans would make their way to the future without dramatic complications, detours, or losses. But their road has been rocky. And now, bereft of its former CEMA allies and partners, Cuba is sinking before our very eyes into a profound crisis. A crisis so acute that, in the opinion of virtually all the world's press, it will need radical change and—I hope the veterans of the Moncada, the Sierra Maestra, and Playa Giron will forgive me—such change is urgently banging on the door.

Many observers believe that in the past few years Havana has lagged behind reality to a certain extent and has failed to respond adequately to the immense changes occurring in the world. The world as a whole has already overcome the confrontational obstacles of the Cold War, increasingly heeding and implementing the principles of new and, to a considerable extent, deideologized thinking. Yet through inertia people in Havana have kept on trying to persuade both themselves and others that the "progressive forces of the day" still need to preserve an anti-imperialist springboard off the U.S. coast. It seems to me that this fatal delusion is the main problem in today's Cuba and the root of many of its ills.

At the same time, the republic's leaders have sufficient information, the levers of a still quite effective party and state authority, and—whatever the West may say—considerable intellectual potential. It is no accident that many people are expecting a comprehensively well-founded answer to the question of whether the policy of "tightening the screw"—essentially burying the problem—will continue in the old, standardized style. Or perhaps attempts will be made to avert the coming upheaval with timely and well-considered reforms from "above"? Without in any way wishing to interfere in Cuba's internal affairs, I will permit myself to ponder this subject somewhat on a purely hypothetical basis.

So, let's suppose that Havana ultimately chooses some kind of political reform option. But would these changes from "above" produce an excessively rapid, almost snowballing reaction in the country? I am convinced that a great deal can be done to prevent such a reaction. Cuba is not Czechoslovakia—it did not import its revolution from anywhere. The regime on the island has hundreds of thousands of sincere supporters prepared to resolutely defend the existing organs of power in the event of an uncontrolled and irresponsible attack by its opponents. And I feel sorry for those who fail to realize this, evidently forgetting that the sons of farm laborers, hired hands, and landless peasants have nonetheless benefited from the revolution, despite all its mistakes.

In short, given goodwill and appropriate shifts in the Cuban leadership's position, it is entirely possible to assume broad popular support for a gradual, phased process of transition from the current rather archaic political system—characterized by a 100-percent monopoly of power—to a different, more modern, and pluralistic structure.

For instance, human rights organizations believe that, within the framework of the new course, the elaboration of Cuban domestic and foreign policy can be influenced not only by Communists but by other social forces too—including Cuban emigres, of which, according to certain figures, there are around 1.5 million. Incidentally, most of them have no connection with the crimes of the Batista dictatorship.

I might be asked: Where are the guarantees that the new subjects of Cuba's sociopolitical life, should they materialize, will not attempt to topple the current holders of top state prerogatives? Well, the answer can be found in neighboring Nicaragua. There, despite the defeat of the Sandinista Front in multiparty elections, key posts in the state security organs, the Defense Ministry, and a number of other authorities are still held by the Sandinistas, as if emphasizing thereby a partial continuity of power irrespective of any new accent in its functioning. Meanwhile, Cuba is still only planning to hold free elections, and it is quite possible that the Communist Party would win. So should the Cuban leadership be too worried about staging an election campaign on a new basis, even with foreign observers present?...

How to prepare for such a campaign is again something more obvious from Havana's viewpoint. Who knows, they could even work out electioneering principles that should definitely be implemented. For instance, the opposition could publicly renounce any forms of destabilizing the regime, restricting itself to explaining its alternative platform. In turn, the government could, clearly, abandon political trials for the duration. Moreover, it should not be impossible for the Cuban comrades to stipulate beforehand the Communist Party's status and the level of its future influence on affairs of state in the event of the Communists' failing to win a majority.

It will clearly take authoritative international guarantees to ensure that this change is genuinely peaceful and nonviolent. So why, indeed, cannot this role be assumed by the power involved in everything that has happened in Cuba over the past few decades? In particular, the United States would be doing both Cuba and the entire world community a considerable service by assuring everyone that it had no plans to stage an armed invasion of the island or to physically eliminate the Cuban leaders, and by completely ending military activities in the region of its Guantanamo base. Moreover, should not the possibility of lifting the trade and economic blockade of the republic be examined before elections?

I think that a great deal will also depend on the position of the Soviet Union and Russia. In this respect one can understand and support the recent statements by M.S. Gorbachev and B.N. Yeltsin to the effect that our relations with Cuba should be gradually made mutually advantageous, replacing the military alliance—with its inevitable costs—with a constructive partnership which will be fruitful for both sides. However, the specific form of the USSR president's statement the other day about the forthcoming withdrawal of Soviet military personnel from Cuba and the situation in which he chose to make it seem highly controversial. Which is why this event is arousing legitimate objections, and not only from Havana. Is it in fact permissible to announce such decisions without holding preliminary consultations with Cuba, which is linked to us by corresponding agreements? Or is the sorry experience of Khrushchev's diplomacy—when at the height of the 1962 Caribbean crisis we withdrew our nuclear missiles from the island without even deigning to inform our friends—not enough for us?

In speculating about Cuba's future, we are still only dealing with supposition and hypothesis. But it would be so nice to see some of these turn into real policies just once! I am sure that millions of Cubans would benefit. Moreover, the whole world would too.

Cuba's 'Noticeable Irritation' at Troop Withdrawal

LD1709174591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Nikolay Agayants commentary; from the "Information-Analytical Program of Radio Rossii—Commentaries, Reports, and Interviews"]

[Text] In connection with the decision of Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin on the staged withdrawal of Soviet troops from Freedom Island, the Cuban leadership distributed a statement, that says that Havana was surprised by the very question without its being previously agreed between plenipotentiary delegations of the two countries. Here is our commentary. Nikolay Agayants is at the microphone:

[Agayants] Comparatively recently, our geopolitical plans were built on a class approach to existing international problems, with the aim of defending the achievements of socialism, wherever they were, from the encroachments of perfidious imperialism. We assiduously supported dictatorships—or at any rate far from democratic regimes—on all continents, swearing our friendship to the grave. How this all turned out is well known: Afghanistan running with blood, Ethiopia starving, Nicaragua reduced to complete economic collapse, Angola aflame with the fires of internecine war, and Cuba bristling with weapons. Everywhere we tried to help independent states to build a happy future in our own image under the all-conquering banners of Marxism-Leninism, there sprang up conflicts that brought peoples neither happiness, nor peace, nor prosperity.

Then bright changes appeared on the planet. In relations between states, great and small, the principles of new political thinking began to be affirmed and the tight, dangerous knots of contradiction slowly began to be loosened. Of course, it must not be said that everything has been and is smooth sailing. Some of our former friends and allies, especially those in Cuba, have had a suspicious attitude to the change in the foreign policy of the Land of the Soviets in proclaiming our departure from former class positions in favor of values common to all mankind. At the same time we left Afghanistan we withdrew our troops from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Inevitably, we were also faced with the question of the future of our military advisers, technical experts, and servicemen on Freedom Island. This question was frequently raised during Soviet-U.S. summit talks, and during the latest talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet leaders in Moscow.

Now we have the well-known statement by Gorbachev and Yeltsin. In Havana it was received with noticeable irritation. The Cubans are convinced that all this is a result of pressure on the USSR from Uncle Sam and an attempt to bring to their knees a people building socialism in the Western Hemisphere under the slogan: The Fatherland or Death! Of course, the situation is not a simple one and is a somewhat delicate one for us, if we consider that for decades we not only encouraged the socialist aspirations of Fidel Castro and those around him, but assiduously supported the anti-imperialist policy of Havana economically, financially, with weaponry, and with the presence on the island of our advisers, experts, servicemen and more. Now the Cuban leadership is making the withdrawal of Soviet troops conditional upon a whole series of demands, including, for instance, the withdrawal from the island of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo at the same time as the Soviet brigades. The resolution of the problem will become a hard nut for Moscow to crack, but it must be resolved. The sooner, the better—for everyone.

'International Panorama' on Soviet Presence in Cuba

LD1609091491

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian at 1541 GMT on 15 September, in the course of its scheduled "International Panorama" program, presented by Stanislav Kondrashov, carries a 10-minute report on Soviet ties with Cuba.

Kondrashov introduces his report as follows: "After his meeting with Secretary of State Baker, Gorbachev announced a sensational piece of news: Moscow is considering the question of withdrawing the Soviet training brigade from Cuba. This is a concession to the Americans. They are not preparing to reduce their military presence in Cuba, the Guantanamo base. What's sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander. The goose is the United States, now the sole superpower."

The report then cuts to correspondent Yevgeniy Fateyev, identified by screen caption, who begins his report from Cuba with a review of the missile crisis of 1962, showing one of the missiles left as a monument. "The military cooperation that started then between the USSR and Cuba is being continued by the Number 12 Soviet Training Brigade, whose existence here on Cuban soil they tried to keep a strict military secret for 29 years, until Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin revealed it during the Kremlin-U.S. telebridge last week." He says that once Gorbachev talked of withdrawal the commander of the brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Bibik had no choice but to allow television journalists in.

Fateyev asks Bibik: "Surely for all these 29 years you weren't carrying out some secret mission which you couldn't even talk about?"

Bibik answers: "I believe that there was no secret mission here. All these 29 years the training center carried out a specific task to train Cuban troops in mastering hardware, which is what we are doing at the present time."

Fateyev: "I want to ask you this: You are the commander of a Soviet unit, a lieutenant colonel in the Soviet Armed Forces; but for some reason you are now wearing the uniform of the Cuban Army?"

Bibik: "This decision was made two years ago. I believe that this uniform is simply better adapted to the climatic conditions."

Fateyev: "Yes, the uniform really is good for the tropics, and what is not unimportant is that it is not very conspicuous here in Cuba."

Fateyev interviews Bibik against a video of exercises, military competitions, and march pasts, and then reviews Soviet contributions to the Cuban armed forces. The video then shows Havana street scenes and Cuban propaganda posters, while Fateyev remarks that economic aid has not been very successful.

There follows an interview with Kormilitsyn, USSR trade representative in Cuba, identified from screen caption.

Fateyev: "Petr Ivanovich, it was recently reported on the 'Vremya' program that the Soviet Union provides Cuba with annual aid of about $4 billion. Before that one heard a mass of other figures."

Kormilitsyn: "Indeed, somewhere, the peak of the aid came in the 1981-1985 five-year plan. During that period, one could talk about such an annual figure. But this year this is not the case."

Kormilitsyn goes on to explain that Soviet policy is switching to the principle of mutual benefit, that is, a balance of imports and exports with Cuba.

Fateyev: "But so far, with the transfer of accounts between our two countries to clearing dollars, Cuba is rapidly losing Soviet specialists. In January 1990, there were more than 3,500 of them here. Now 980 remain. By the new year at least 200 more will leave. Neither the Cuban side nor we possess enough hard currency to pay specialists at world prices."

Fateyev recalls that the number of Soviet personnel at the Cuban atomic power station is being cut. Video shows footage of the power station. The Cienfuegos oil refinery, which cost the Soviet Union four times more than the projected price, almost 1.5 billion rubles [R], is idle for lack of crude delivered by the Soviet Union. Video shows the refinery and Soviet tankers. Recently, there used to be 100 Soviet vessels in Cuban ports, now there are 10 to 15 times less. The Soviet "Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy" out of Odessa waited in a sea lane for a berth to load sugar for eight days, and five more days were spent on loading.

Fateyev: "In a word, wherever you turn, there are problems all around which both we and the Cubans have to resolve. And there may be disagreements between us. We may have already rejected communist illusions, while in Cuba they still prefer to fight to the death for socialism. Nonetheless, we need each other. It is easy now in the heat of the moment to reject 32 years of our friendship and cooperation. It is more important to learn to be equal partners. For so many years things were decided in CPSU Central Committee offices. The special nature of our relations is already behind us." Video shows cyclists, Castro walking, troops marching, torch lit, Cubans waving Cuban flags.

Kondrashov, in the studio, says: "Well, politically, Cuba has remained an island. But it is no longer the island of freedom, as it was customary to call it over those long years, in accordance with our official emotionalism. We picked our friends according to our own image and likeness. And they rushed to us, using the Soviet Union, seeing in it a second center of world attraction opposing the United States and a model of another structure of society. Castro was the hero and leader of a national liberation struggle against the overwhelming influence of the Americans on Cuba. Then, he opposed the United States, drew close to Moscow and the CPSU, and started to build socialism, basically, according to Moscow's blueprints, with the suppression of dissidence, with his own cult, and, alas, with the same inefficient economy. And Soviet people, tired from their own socialism, like the once irresistible, romantic and heroic bearded figure less and less. Now, especially since the August putsch, the philosophical model of Mikhail Gorbachev has definitively changed, after breaking with the CPSU.

"The philosophy and pointers in the world have changed, as to where partners and opponents are located. Fidel Castro has practically migrated to the opponents. During the days of the putsch, the Americans demonstrated that they were allies and friends of the young democracy. And meeting with Baker, Gorbachev announced to the whole world that he will withdraw a Soviet training unit from Cuba, compromising with the wishes of the Americans, and, if one is to believe the Cuban Foreign Ministry, not even informing the Cuban friends of it yesterday or the day before. Politics is a harsh and cruel thing. Particularities are sacrificed to the universal, main things. We have ceased to be a superpower and the second center of world attraction. We are in a deep crisis, and therefore, we cannot afford expensive special relations and they do not accord with our new status. And we should behave in accordance with the logic of that world into which we would wish to be integrated—the world of Western states."

Cuban Exile Cited on Soviet-Cuban Relations

PM1309134591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Interview with Francisco Hernandez, Cuban-American National Foundation president, by correspondent Yu. Sigov; place and date not given: "'Kryuchkov Was in Cuba on a Secret Visit One Month Before Putsch'"]

[Text] The Cuban-American National Foundation is one of the leading organizations of the Cuban opposition in

the United States. The foundation's president, Francisco Hernandez, describes how the recent events in the USSR were received in Cuba.

Our first question concerned M.S. Gorbachev's statement about the withdrawal from Cuba in the very near future of the Soviet military contingent stationed there.

The elimination of the Soviet military presence in Cuba also has enormous political importance. After all in the case of a conflict between the ruling structures and people in Cuba F. Castro could resort to playing the "Soviet military card" and our servicemen would be drawn into open conflict between the regime and the opposition forces.

[Sigov] How did people on Cuba greet the news of the attempted state coup in the USSR?

[Hernandez] The Cuban leadership received with joy the news that "strong men" had come to power in the USSR. Some of them, like O. Baklanov, had paid visits to Cuba not long before the putsch. And former KGB Chairman V. Kryuchkov had been to Cuba on a secret mission in July and according to information in our possession discussed with the Cuban leaders the possible development of events in the USSR."

[Sigov] The Soviet Union, living through serious domestic difficulties, is continuing to render substantial material aid to Cuba. But despite this the economic crisis on the island is continuing to be aggravated every day.

[Hernandez] Now because of the shortage of food people on Cuba are switching to eating once a day and many Havana people go to work on bicycles since transportation is at a standstill because of the lack of fuel. The Cubans themselves believe in nothing and of the slogan "socialism or death" they say the two things are the same.

I am not against mutually advantageous trade between the USSR and Cuba but I am against the pointless "selfless aid" and against squandering resources of which we ourselves do not have enough in order to keep Castro's regime afloat.

[Sigov] How do you see the way out of the present crisis in Cuba?

[Hernandez] In October the Cuban Communist Party Congress, which has already been repeatedly postponed, should take place. I do not think that the fate of their Soviet colleagues awaits the Cuban Communists. So far there is no real opposition in Cuba and most likely the Castro brothers will succeed in imposing cosmetic reforms on the Cubans. In addition the congress delegates are carefully "filtered" locally so that during the work of the congress in the auditorium there should not be a single "deviationist."

Democratization can be achieved in Cuba only through the efforts of the entire world community. We urge all states to send messages to F. Castro demanding first of all that democratic free elections be held in the country and that the ban on the activity of political parties be lifted.

Political & Social

Gorbachev, Editors Discuss Economic Union

LD1709202991 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

["Excerpt" from USSR President M.S. Gorbachev's meeting with "TV club of chief editors" in IZVESTIYA chief editor's office in Moscow on 17 September—recorded]

[Text] [First unidentified editor] We are all concerned very much, I think, by what concerns all readers and the whole country: What will happen tomorrow? What will happen in two days' time? That concerns every family, including every one of our readers and every journalist. We are now waiting to know, and would probably like to know from you: What will happen to the economic union first and foremost? The first stage. But if there is an economic union, we, the team of journalists at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, are concerned by the question of what will happen to the information space? After all, if there is an economic space, then there must be an information space. Without the opportunity for people to exchange information, will it be an independent state? Will it be an independent republic? We must, it seems to me, guarantee that, and we await that guarantee from you as president, and we await it from the State Council, from the leaders of the sovereign republics—those who will join the union and those who won't. It is very important for everyone to know what will happen in Tajikistan, what will happen in the Baltic republics, what will happen in Moldavia.

[Second unidentified editor] Mikhail Sergeyevich, throughout the past years you have said, all the time, at all meetings, in the localities and at conferences, that the people support us. The policy is right. And you say that now. So I want to inform you, with alarm, that, through delays and procrastination, we have reached a state in which the policy itself is placed in doubt in the people's consciousness.

[Third unidentified editor] Many warnings are being voiced over future inflammations and, perhaps, social upheavals connected with the indeterminate nature of the social perspective and people's social future. I should like to recall this and to see that we give it some thought here, as it were, today and henceforth.

[Gorbachev] All this can be reduced to one question: What will happen to us tomorrow? I think that is the central question for all of us, for all who live in this country. The fact that the putsch failed, I must say, shows that the putschists understood that we had come to real changes, and, as far as the federation is concerned, the conversion of our multinational state into a union of sovereign states—with big changes towards the realization of sovereignties, the transfer of powers to the republics, and thereby responsibility too—that is what is in accord with people's wishes. It is such an important question, the regeneration of all the nations and peoples living in this land, that, if it is not resolved, then it is hard to count on the success of the transformations in general and on the fact that the processes of stabilization and the processes connected with achieving the reform goals will get under way in our country. That's the first point.

Second, within the framework of changes in the federation, its transfer into a union of sovereign states, the restructuring of state structures is, after all, taking place too. The center as it was, with all its bureaucratic legalizations and mechanisms, is being transformed into a center that is needed by the republics, and is being created by them in their interests. It is a new state, a new system of power.

Yesterday's sitting of the State Council revealed that everyone has the wish...after the joint statement where it says that the problem of, nevertheless, attaining a union of sovereign states is given top priority. All comrades hope that we shall manage, taking account of everything that we have experienced, to nevertheless attain a new treaty for a union of sovereign states.

That is the first point. And the second point [voices: "in an economic space..."] is that the first reading has taken place of the draft economic treaty. The number of republics that took part in the preparatory stage for this draft was—er, I'll tell you in a second—effectively 15, including even the Baltic republics, now independent. Yes, this is because an economic space has evolved. It is an objective reality. And if anyone thinks that you can treat it like some ordinary thing and throw it out, or...no, if we don't realize that we are in the grip of these realities and fail to take that into account, we could do much that will not only fail to lead our economy onto a broad healthy route of free development, but will simply be a calamity. We must reckon with these realities. And the realities are that the entire economy is bound together. Our level of integration is higher than in the European Community. Higher. So are we to take it all backwards? Thus what we are talking about is an economic treaty and the preservation of a single economic space in which everyone—the republics, the regions and the production collectives—would have an opportunity to freely press ahead with their plans.

Republic Leaders Comment on State Council Session

Mutalibov Urges Interrepublic Ties

LD1709101191 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Djibutiy]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS— "If economic decline continues, all democratic achievements in the Soviet Union may be lost for the future," President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov told TASS in an interview after he arrived in Moscow to attend a session of the State Council.

"I am really concerned about weakening economic ties between the disintegrated parts of the union, which is clearly seen now," Mutalibov said.

He pointed out that seventy years of deep integration of the republics within the Soviet Union can not just slip away without leaving a certain imprint on their own economies. It's obvious no republic is able to provide a sufficient standard of life for its people on its own.

"This is why our most urgent problem is to consolidate direct horizontal connections between republics. Otherwise, we will soon have to face a rebirth of the old strong administrative centre, which would surely jeopardise the sovereignities of new-born republics", the president stressed.

According to Mutalibov, the disintegration process was enhanced by the failed coup attempt in August. He suggested we take an analytic approach to those days instead of letting our emotions run wild.

"I think it is a high time to analyse the situation and take extraordinary measures to curb economical disintegration", the president said.

Akayev Optimistic About State Council

LD1709100791 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Saklakov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 tass—President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan has described today's meeting of the state council of the USSR as being "of exceptional importance".

Although item one on the agenda is food supplies for 1991 and 1992, the meeting's key issue is the discussion of the draft treaty of economic community proposed by Soviet economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy.

According to Akayev, this problem will transcend the limits of pure economics as the signing of an economic treaty is only possible within the context of future political decisions.

Asked to specify his stand on the issue, Akayev told TASS that the leadership of Kyrgyzstan had long been of the opinion that before making political decisions, it is necessary to sign an agreement on the economic community—that is to take the first step towards the future treaty of union.

From the viewpoint of the head of Kyrgyzstan, there is a certain chance for the present meeting of the Council of State to reach a positive decision on the problem of community, similar to the European economic community.

He stressed that bilateral and multilateral treaties of soviet republics could serve as the basis for the future treaty.

Akayev said the economic agreement version proposed by Yavlinskiy was unacceptable because of its complexity. He praised the alternative draft agreement proposed by Stanislav Shatalin. He said it was clear-cut and lucid and matched the present situation perfectly. Akayev said Shatalin's draft could eventually serve as the pivot of the economic treaty of sovereign republics.

Coup Defendants' Lawyers, Procurator Brief Media

LD1809032791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Russia's general procurator, Valentin Stepankov, has reported that the preliminary investigation into the case of the organizers of the August coup d'etat should be concluded in three months, but that it is at present impossible to give an estimated probable date for the start of the trial, inasmuch as the lawyers are able to familiarize themselves with the documents of the investigation, in Stepankov's words, as much as they wish.

Speaking with journalists, the general procurator reported that doctors have concluded that Anatoliy Lukyanov, who is now in the hospital, is practically well, but that it has been decided not to rush to transfer him back to the remand cell, pending a fuller medical examination. According to Stepankov, four former high-ranking members of the USSR KGB have to date been brought to criminal account and arrested. Members of the crew of infantry fighting vehicle 536, guilty in the deaths of defenders of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic House of Soviets during the early hours of 21 August, have not been arrested and have not been brought to criminal account. In the words of Russia's general procurator, the investigation has not yet determined that their actions were aimed at killing people.

In the case of the coup d'etat, Gorbachev should have been interrogated not as a witness, but as an injured party victim. Yuriy Ivanov, lawyer for Kryuchkov, made this assertion at a news conference in Moscow. He added that the evidence of an injured party has a different value. Yuriy Ivanov also reported that Yeltsin, Silayev, Burbulis, and Khasbulatov should be interrogated in this case. In connection with the fact that Russia's general procurator, Stepankov, has stated that his telephone had been bugged, he should end his involvement in the investigation and assume the role of an injured party.

The lawyer also stated that what is taking place is not an investigation, but assault and battery without sufficient guarantees for the right to defense.

The health of many of those accused of organizing the coup d'etat of 19 August has sharply deteriorated of late. This was stated at a news conference on 17 September by Aleksey Galoganov, lawyer for former USSR Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, who reported that to date his client has not yet recovered from his hypertensive crisis. Aleksandr Kliman, lawyer for the former deputy chairman of the KGB, Viktor Grushko, said in turn that

his client is suffering from progressive diabetes mellitus. He needs to take medicine five times a day and maintain dietary nutrition. In a remand cell, at the conclusion of doctors who work there, it is impossible to ensure this. The former manager of the USSR president's office, Valeriy Boldin—arrested, in the words of his lawyer, in the hospital—also has to observe a diet.

It was also reported at the news conference that on 10 September a search was carried out in Pavlov's prison cell, and that notes of conversations with his lawyer and personal notes were removed. They were returned only on 15 September. The former prime minister feels that the cause for the search was a denunciation of him by his cell- mate.

TASS Reports News Conference

LD1709214991 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Tamara Ivanova and Vitaliy Djibouti]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Unlike prosecutors who decide independently what to say or not to say at a news conference, lawyers are in a pinch—for divulging evidence in a case they can face criminal charges.

This warning was made at the chair at the opening of the news conference held in Moscow today by the lawyers of the persons arrested on charges of complicity in last month's botched coup.

Five lawyers took part in the news conference organised by the Committee for Protecting the Freedom of Speech and the Rights of Journalists, attached to the USSR Union of Journalists and the Union of Soviet Lawyers.

Aleksey Gologanov, the lawyer of former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov was critical of the prosecutors and the Russian investigative bodies involved in the enquiry into the case of his defendant. According to Gologanov, some of the prosecutors involved in the investigation leak information in their public appearances. He also said the rights of lawyers, defendants and their relatives were infringed upon: attempts are being made to reduce the role of the lawyer during interrogations to that of a notary official or, in other words, a mute witness.

The lawyer said his defendant had told him his cell had been searched on September 10 and his personal letters and records of his talks with the lawyer had been confiscated. The things were returned to the former prime minister only five days later. The lawyer described the act as a gross violation of the rights of both the defendant and the lawyer.

Unfortunately, not all mass media give an impartial coverage of the investigation, he said, often distort what we say, pronounce their own verdicts before the court has decided on the case and offer the readers biased versions. The lawyer favoured honest dialogue with the press.

He also noted that to his mind Pavlov's actions did not amount to high treason as defined in Article 64 of the Russian Criminal Code.

"I have no doubts that Mikhail Gorbachev is interested in the outcome of the case, and he can be biased, voluntarily or unintentionally," lawyer Yuriy Ivanov said. "It is important for me that the president answer questions from the defence. Now, we have no such opportunity."

According to Ivanov, other persons, including Boris Yeltsin, Ivan Silayev, Gennadiy Burbulis and Ruslan Khasbulatov, should be interrogated as witnesses. He believes that Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov should step down from conducting the case, as his telephone talks were bugged, and Stepankov admitted it. This means that he is a victim himself.

"'Beating' of our defendants, rather than investigation, is underway, without observing a guaranteed right to defence," Ivanov said.

Anatoliy Lukyanov's lawyer Aleksandr Gofshtein said the defence will act independently of the mass media or political likes or dislikes. "We will do everything possible to avoid making the trial a political one in the worst sense of the word," he said.

Gofshtein said Lukyanov is in hospital, although he had objected to being placed there. He was hospitalised as the state of his health caused serious anxiety among physicians at the detention centre.

Aleksandr Glikman, the lawyer defending former Soviet KGB first deputy head Viktor Grushko, dwelled on Article 64 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code, noting that "there is no investigation or court experience on the issue". Neither the law, nor commentaries to it give legal explanations of the word "motherland", he said.

Detained Putschists Complain of Prison Conditions

PM1809085991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 8

[Unattributed report under the rubric "The Three-Day Putsch. IZVESTIYA Investigation": "Detainees Complain About Their Health and the Bad Tea"]

[Text] On the third day of custody Anatoliy Lukyanov started to complain about a deterioration in his health. According to his lawyer, Aleksandr Gofshteyn, it was due to the poor food and the stiffer confinement regime.

The doctors at the detention center were unable to say anything definite about Lukyanov's state of health. Then the prosecutor's office decided on a thorough medical examination of the accused: He was transferred from the

detention center to a USSR Internal Affairs Ministry hospital, where he is being kept under guard. "There is no question of Lukyanov's being released from custody at the moment," I was told at the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Prosecutor's Office.

What about the health of the other accused? Plekhanov has the usual collection of diseases for a man of his age, his lawyer, G. Reznik believes. He is not complaining about the conditions. He is unhappy about the quality of the institutional tea, though.

Pavlov and Kryuchkov are also accustomed to drinking good tea whenever they want, in fact they used to consume it in large quantities. Now they are unhappy, according to lawyer Yuriy Ivanov, about the restrictions on food. Incidentally, it is said that the feeding norms in detention centers and other places of imprisonment were approved by Pavlov himself, when he was the country's prime minister. Alas, the joke goes in the detention center, he never thought... (It is just a joke, in fact. We have established that the feeding norms were approved by another premier—N. Ryzhkov).

Yazov's eyes have started to hurt. His lawyer, Nikolay Pechenkin, puts it down to the constant bright light in the cell. The marshal has no other complaints about his health. The other lawyers did not tell us how their clients were feeling.

Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov regularly visits the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] members' cells. He reckons that the conditions in which the detained conspirators are being kept are normal for a detention center and there is no reason to think about improving them. As for Yazov's complaint about the bright light in the prison cell, V. Stepankov gave us a promise that he would deal with it.

97 Investigators Assigned to Study Putsch Case

LD1709155391 Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Borisov]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The joint group of investigators dealing with the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency consists of 97 people. TASS learned today that 53 of them represent the public procecutor's office of the USSR, 30 are staffers of the directorate for the investigation of especially important cases and 23 are from the main military procurator's office of the USSR.

Twelve investigators represent the public procecutor's office of the Russian Federation and 15—various regions of Russia. Seventeen investigators participate from the public procecutor's office of the Ukraine, Belorussia and Uzbekistan.

Commission Outlines Inquiry Plans

LD1709180791 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The provisional commission for parliamentary investigation into the reasons of the August 18-21 coup d'etat in the Soviet Union has issued a statement outlining the main subjects of its inquiries.

The statement was distributed here today by the Russian parliament presidium press service.

The commission was established in accordance with the Russian parliament presidium's resolution dated September 6.

The commission considers the preparation of proposals on improving legislation and management structures in the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union, aimed to eliminate any unconstitutional encroachments on legal power, as its main task.

The commission believes that it should make an unbiased analysis of the reasons for and aims of the coup d'etat and identify state structures and officials, who supported putschists or in some other way helped the coup.

It is necessary to specify the role of public organisations, their bodies and leaders in preparing and implementing the coup, the statement reads.

"We are against a witch hunt, and we will take all measures to exclude persecution of citizens for their political convictions," the statement reads.

Bakatin on KGB Future, Cooperation With CIA

LD1709153391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1435 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS Observer Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—A feature of all the world's special services is that they are secret. They could not function normally if they were to be opened. They would then no longer be special services. This is what USSR KGB Chairman Vadim Bakatin said today in an interview with a TASS observer.

At the same time, he noted that where it is a case of history and tragic pages that are shrouded in mystery, then "it is important for these pages to be opened up for society. An instruction to this effect has already been issued."

Furthermore, Bakatin stressed, the committee's statistics have to be gone through. "I think that we will make these statistics public, but not all of them. In particular, it is not possible to make public the identity of agents, for then they would lose their purpose. In other words, professional secrecy should remain, within the framework of the law."

Speaking about future areas of KGB activity, the chairman noted that the committee has already declared its move away from political investigation to the fight against organized crime. However, Bakatin expressed regret over the lack so far of major results in this sphere.

Vadim Bakatin paid particular attention to the work of the intelligence service. "There are intelligence services in all states. You and I are unlikely to live long enough to see intelligence services cease to exist. Intelligence work is conducted throughout the entire world. I am sure that we should not get left behind in this work," he declared. After touching upon the question of alterations to the system of state security bodies, Vadim Bakatin noted that "we will change together with society. Above all, we will change the structure. Clearly, we will make reductions, our intelligence and counterintelligence work will be more purposeful, and we will more actively combat organized crime. We will become a kind of agency serving the interests of all the republics that wish to enter the Union. I think that questions of external security and external intelligence will remain under central control."

Commenting on the assertions of Western sources that American POWs captured on the territory of North Vietnam could possibly be found in the USSR, Vadim Bakatin stated that this should be excluded. "I cannot allow that we have held American citizens, even more so veterans of the war in Vietnam. This assertion seems to be an absolutely absurd invention. As a citizen of the USSR, I am convinced that this is impossible."

Speaking about the possibility of cooperation between the KGB and the CIA, he noted that "if trust among states is to be increased, it would be logical for the special services to find a point of contact as well and to cooperate on issues that represent a common danger to mankind. This is first and foremost the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism."

KGB's 'Supersecret Spetznaz' Functions Viewed

91UF1163A Moscow TRUD in Russian
13 Sep 91 pp 1,2

[Interview with Colonel Boris B., commander of the spetznaz unit of the KGB's First Chief Directorate, by Vladimir Snegirev; date and place not given: "In Those Days of Trouble: KGB's Supersecret Spetznaz Did Not Move to Assault Position"]

[Text] **A recent press report mentioned that, in addition to the now well known Alpha group, a supersecret KGB subunit was supposed to take part in the aborted storming of the "White House" on the night of 21 August. Until then, nothing had ever been mentioned about this unit. It is a known fact that in their plans, the GKChP [State Committee for the State of Emergency] had assigned a special role to this subunit.**

The restricted zone on the edge of the forest near Moscow is ringed by two rows of sophisticated fences. Solid massive gates. A chamber where automobiles pass a security check. Sprightly, smartly dressed lads in special spetznaz uniforms, familiar to me from Afghanistan in the early 1980's: There, in some provinces, I had met the fighters from the KGB's Cascade and Zenith Brigades. This subunit was created exactly 10 years ago on the basis of these brigades, in order to conduct special operations abroad. It was exactly on 19 August that officers and ensigns were getting ready to solemnly celebrate this anniversary; instead of congratulations, however, they heard completely different talk that day.

The commander of this one of a kind elite military unit, 51 year old Colonel Boris B., has never in his life given an interview to journalists. The distinguishing feature of his service has always been its absolute secrecy. The state security colonel, pouring black coffee into cups, agrees with me, however, that right now is a special case. It is in the interests of the state to find out and bring to light all the details of the failed anticonstitutional coup...

[B.] On Sunday, 18 August, at about 1600 our duty officer located me over the telephone and gave me the message: "General Shebarshin called." (Head of the USSR KGB First Chief Directorate—external intelligence.—Ed.) I dialed Leonid Vladimirovich's number. "Where are you now?" he asked. " At home?" "Yes, sir." "Report to the service facility and get your people together. On arrival at the facility report to me." I immediately gave orders over the telephone to summon all personnel.

At our suburban base, we got the weapons, individual protection gear, and long-distance communications ready. I called Shebarshin: "What should we prepare for, a ground trip or a flight?" "I do not know myself yet," he replied. "Right now stay put and wait for orders." Frankly, we decided that we were being sent to Karabakh: Some soldiers had been taken hostage there the day before, so we would be sent to rescue them. Nothing else came to mind, the situation around the world on the whole was calm.

The night passed normally: no calls, no messengers. Early in the morning I was awakened: "Boris Petrovich, have you heard what the radio is broadcasting?" At that point, of course, everything became clear. At 0800 we received an order to relocate from the suburban base to the Dzerzhinskiy club—it is next to the Committee, on Lubyanka. We got into buses and by 1100 had safely arrived at the club, where we spent all of Monday doing nothing.

[Snegirev] Please tell, to the extent possible, what your people have trained for so doggedly for 10 years? What have you been preparing them for? What does the term "special operations" mean?

[B.] Do understand me correctly. We are an operational special subunit that is subordinated to external intelligence. None of the foreign organizations similar to us ever disclose specific tasks and the nature of their activities. Their actions become known only if they fail. If you recall, the American Delta Force came to light for

the first time only after the failure of Operation Eagle's Claw, intended to free American hostages in Iran.

Our subunit gets activated in situations that present a direct threat to USSR security, and only by order of the KGB chairman, issued on the basis of a decision by the president of the country. In peace time, among our main tasks are combating international terrorism, providing training assistance to special designation subunits of security services of friendly countries, and participation in actions aimed at ensuring the security of Soviet citizens and organizations abroad. In case of military actions, our task is to conduct reconnaissance and sabotage actions deep behind enemy lines.

[Snegirev] Have your people had a chance to use their skills in action since Afghanistan?

[B.] Not abroad. Domestically—yes. For instance, during the well-known events in Tbilisi and Baku, where our task was to ensure protection of some objects.

[Snegirev] In Poland?..

[B.] No, no, none of our people were there. Strictly speaking, when it comes to foreign countries, some members of the center did make trips to Cuba, Mozambique, Angola, and Vietnam, but only as advisers.

[Snegirev] Let us come back to recent events. It is now 20 August...

[B.] Some time around 1430 I was ordered to report to Ageyev's office (Ageyev, then first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB.—Ed.). The commander of the "A" Group, Karpukhin was there, as well as the chief of the Moscow branch and a number of high-ranking people from the central staff. Ageyev outlined the task: Proceed to the building of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet and in three stages—first the "A" Group, then ours, and then another KGB special group—take over the building.

The task came through in a somewhat abstract way, did not sound very serious. Are there armed people in the building and how many? Who is around the building? And is it our business to begin with? My contemplations were interrupted by an order to go to the Ministry of Defense to clarify the details. Everybody who was present in the office went there.

The meeting was conducted by Achalov. (Achalov—then USSR deputy minister of defense.—Ed.). We were all introduced. Achalov explained the operation plan: The troops ring the building; then, at "T" hour we start the operation. General Lebed from the airborne paratroops—he came in later—said that the building is protected by 500 to 700 armed people, and there is a huge crowd around it... In short, it became clear to everybody that considerable bloodshed was unavoidable. But then one of the senior generals, I think it was Varennikov, interjected: "Stop trying to scare us." That was the end of the conversation.

I told Karpukhin that I wanted to meet with him later, and went to my quarters. I gathered department chiefs, explained the situation to them, and asked them to go to the "White House" to see the situation with their own eyes. It was already the third day of our waiting.

[Snegirev] By the way, about waiting. It is probably not easy psychologically to get ready year after year, day by day, for something that may be mortally dangerous, living in a constant wait for the signal, whereby you, without being asked for your consent, will be put on a plane and parachuted in somewhere...

[B.] I agree, it is not easy. As for the waiting... When the Americans and their allies started a large-scale military action against S. Husayn, an enormous role in their success was played precisely by special designation units like ours. They had also waited for this hour for who knows how many years, had been wearing themselves out in training. Then that hour came, and they determined the fate of the campaign.

[Snegirev] Do you have personnel turnover?

[B.] Almost none, although we cannot offer our members any perks or privileges. Our salary is not higher than in the Committee's regular units. So, people who serve here are true enthusiasts, and I am sincerely happy about it.

[Snegirev] Where do you find them? And, in general, what are the criteria for selecting people for the secret center?

[B.] Our personnel officers search for candidates in the Committee, in the Army, or work through the military draft office. The selection system is very strict. For instance, the medical commission must certify the person as fit for paratroop operations and underwater work. By some parameters, the health criteria are even more strict than in the selection of cosmonauts.

...My people returned from the reconnaissance around the Supreme Soviet building in approximately two hours. And immediately: "Boris Petrovich, this is crazy. There will a sea of blood."

The absurdity and madness of the potential operation became absolutely clear to us. All our training is aimed at conducting actions against a real enemy. But who is the enemy here? Our citizens, including relatives and acquaintances? People's deputies? The legitimate Government of Russia and its president? I call Shebarshin: "Our firm opinion is that we should not participate in this affair." "Wait," he tells me, and I hear him getting on the phone with Kryuchkov. "Here I have Boris Petrovich on the line; he says that storming the building is unrealistic and may lead to predictable tragic consequences." Kryuchkov tells him: "Then tell Ageyev about it." And hung up. Shebarshin explained the same to the first deputy chairman, asked him to see me, and then got his deputy on the intercom. "Here I am giving an order and I want you to hear me, too: 'Do not send people from the special subunit anywhere.' Do you understand me, Boris Petrovich?"

At 2030, in the office of the first deputy chairman of the Committee, Prilukov (then chief of the KGB Moscow branch.—Ed.) reported on the situation on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment and inside the building. It was clear that he had good information. Then all participants in the meeting were asked to express their point of view. The verdict was unanimous: Give up the idea of storming the Russian parliament.

During the conversation I was called away to the reception desk: It was Shebarshin. "Did you report?" "Yes, sir." "And what is the reply?" "There is no final decision yet, the meeting is still in progress." "I am giving you once again a categorical order: Stand firm on your position and do not send your people anywhere."

Having returned to the club, I gave an order: Serve a meal to the personnel and let them go to bed. On the morning of the 21st, with the permission of the department chief, we went back to our suburban base, and soon, with great relief, I let everybody go home. This was the end of our participation—or rather, nonparticipation—in the coup.

[Snegirev] Tell me, are the skill levels of American and our "commandos" comparable? Who is stronger?

[B.] In a speculative sense, no. But I think that both they and we are on a parallel course, both in terms of physical fitness and in specialization.

The specificity—or, if you wish, the uniqueness—of our subunit is that our members must combine both combat and operational qualities. We study special tactics, means and methods of operational secret service work, foreign languages, and regions of potential actions. And, of course, mines and explosives, radio communications, firearms, parachuting, and underwater and mountain climbing training.

Our unit is regularly involved in actions aimed at increasing the security of important economic objects—nuclear power generation, chemicals and petrochemicals, transportation, and life support facilities.

[Snegirev] Forgive me, but what does this mean?

[B.] Look at these photographs. They show the security system of a nuclear power station. See: rows of barbed wire, a plowed control strip. It appears to be unthinkable to sneak into the station's territory, right? Alas, our guys do it regularly during their training exercises. If they can do it, it means potential terrorists can do it. After such "sabotage," we make appropriate presentations to enterprise managers, and recommend ways of improving the security system. By the way, I must say that regretfully our recommendations sometimes are ignored. I do not think I need to elaborate what the results may be.

[Snegirev] Has the unit lost any people during its 10 years?

[B.] Cascade and Zenith suffered some losses in Afghanistan. We have not had any, thank God.

[Snegirev] Are there potential losses after the putsch? Has anyone wanted to leave your ranks for fear that the situation may reoccur in the future?

[B.] No, we do not have such people. And I can assure you with certainty, I told this to my people, and I am telling it to you: The special external intelligence subunit will never step beyond the limits of its designated functions. We will not fight against our own people.

Commission Recommends Dissolution of KGB

PM1709202991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 91 p 1

[Interviews with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the State Commission To Investigate the Activity of State Security Organs, and Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of that commission, by Andrey Zhdankin; date and place not specified: "The USSR KGB Must Cease To Exist"—first three paragraphs are ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] The USSR KGB must cease to exist. That is the conclusion of the State Commission To Investigate the Activity of State Security Organs.

It has been working for over two weeks and the preliminary results can already be summed up.

RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputy Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the state commission, now talks about it.

[Stepashin] The majority of the commission's members formed the opinion that a certain section of the former leadership of the USSR KGB headed by Kryuchkov initiated the coup. That is confirmed not only by the documents directly relating to the events and close to them in time, but also by those which defined the attitude of the committee's leadership to the democratic processes in the country and in Russia, to the democratic forces, and to the parliament and leadership of the Russian Federation. This primarily concerns directorate "3" (protection of the constitutional system).

The documents attest that the idea of introducing a state of emergency in the country was constantly expounded in information intended for the USSR president, for example.

Certain services and directorates of the committee violated not only the constitution but also their own instructions. They tapped the telephone conversations of people's deputies and the Russian leadership, including B. Yeltsin, both when he was chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and in his time as president. The directorate for the protection of the constitutional system protected not the constitution but specific—primarily party—interests.

The second conclusion—a number of USSR KGB structures must be disbanded entirely or placed under different jurisdiction. Much has already been done in that

regard: The committee has lost the protection service (the former "nine"), government communications, and the border troops. Certain technical services, directorates for industry, transport, and so forth, clearly can expect to be transferred to other jurisdiction. The directorate for the protection of the constitutional system will not exist in its present form and scale. Most probably the intelligence service will be autonomous and counterintelligence will be reorganized.

The report of Commission Member USSR People's Deputy Sergey Stankevich (he is studying the USSR KGB-CPSU Central Committee area) shows that the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat played by no means the least important role in preparing the putsch. The crucial figure, by all accounts, was Central Committee Secretary Shenin. The documents relating to this problem are now in the hands of USSR General Prosecutor N. Trubin, the commission has made a request, and the documents will be submitted to it.

[Zhdankin] Is there no resistance from the committee apparatus? Can the commission obtain all the documents it needs?

[Stepashin] There has been no resistance or sabotage, on the contrary, many staffers are conscientiously and sincerely helping us. We have requested all the documents, but unfortunately many important ones, particularly those relating to the three days of the coup, were destroyed the day the Dzerzhinskiy monument was toppled.

[Zhdankin] Do the commission members who are Russian deputies, and that includes you, belong to the radical parliamentary wing? Have you seen dossiers on yourselves, are there any?

[Stepashin] I do not know if there is a dossier in the traditional form of files, like the former GDR "Stasi" had. I think not. But if they do exist they should be sought first of all in people's homes. An interesting idea, we must try it out.

It would be unjust to talk about the committee in purely negative terms. After the recommendation to create corresponding commissions at local level, the local organs of executive power and soviets in 27 krays and oblasts in Russia replied that it would be inexpedient to create such commissions because KGB organs from day one of the coup defended the Constitution and the lawfully elected authorities and fulfilled the orders of the RSFSR KGB chairman alone.

The most important point to date. The commission has adopted a decision and sent the corresponding proposal to the State Council—**on the need to adopt a political act connected with terminating the activity of the USSR KGB in its present form and on creating on its basis a fully-fledged Russian State Security Committee.** After that all the former Union republics which have become sovereign states will decide for themselves what the interrepublic state security committee should be like: its functions, tasks, the bounds of its competence, size, and resources.

After reorganization, I think the committee will change its name. It will be, for example, the federal security ministry or service. The abbreviation KGB is obsolete. It will not be a change of name but a fundamental change of functions and tasks (with an undoubted reduction in the size of the central apparatus) and a reorientation toward the protection of Russia's economic sovereignty, the struggle against organized crime, and other areas which have arisen because the Union no longer exists in its old form. [Stepashin ends]

RSFSR People's Deputy Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the commission:

[Ryabov] I want to stress that the KGB was the instrument of a party-state elite divorced from the people and their interests and that therefore it must cease to exist in the very near future. This certainly does not mean that tens of thousands of decent staffers who honestly performed their official and civic duty must be fired. There is long, painstaking work ahead to reorganize these organs, and work for the good of Russia must be found for all honest professionals.

I must mention one "minor" psychological matter. Meetings and conversations with KGB leaders of various ranks clearly highlight one detail. They have no understanding in their minds that they are serving the constitution or the law, they have no reverence for the rule of law and citizens' rights. They unquestioningly and consistently fulfilled only the orders of their superiors, this for them was the main value, even though there may have been declarations of the "We serve the people and the motherland" type.

[Zhdankin] Is the participation of the military in the putsch being investigated?

[Ryabov] Two commissions have been created in the Defense Ministry system. Unfortunately, both are departmental ones, which limits the sphere of their activity and their powers. One is headed by Army General Kobets, who is now already state counselor for defense matters (and we are very glad of that). It is investigating the conduct of the top military leadership and the leadership of the military districts during the coup. The second is under the leadership of Colonel General Volkogonov—it is working on problems of reforming the political organs.

In addition, Kobets is head of the commission on the military reform. The studies which people said a year ago were destroying the Army and were virtually criminal are now being implemented in the reform concept. They are the gradual transition to a professional army, questions of alternative service, change in the structure and functions of the Defense Ministry and in the role of the

republics, and much else. The concept, I think, will be examined and adopted by the end of the year.

As an officer I want to note that fundamental, positive changes have occurred in the Defense Ministry. The determining role here is played to a large extent by the very sympathetic—to me at least—new defense minister, Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, who not only displayed boldness during the days of the putsch but is also doing so today in carrying out a radical military reform.

Barannikov Discusses MVD Structure, Purges

LD1709192191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1540 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Statement by USSR Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Pavlovich Barannikov at a news conference with unidentified correspondents; place and date not given; from the "Man and Law" program—recorded]

[Text] Representatives from the 15 former Union republics held a meeting on 30 August with the internal affairs ministers. The ministers decided during the eight-hour meeting that the center is necessary—I mean, that the USSR ministry is necessary—but necessary in another capacity, namely for the republics—that is, not the republics for the ministry but the ministry for the republics. I have in mind primarily coordination on the international and interregional battle against crime and forecasting. The republics will be Internal Affairs Ministry customers.

A clear-cut issue arises from this: Highly qualified professionals should work in the Internal Affairs Ministry [MVD]. You understand very well that, if they are not professionals, there will not be any orders for any employee in any sphere. However, at the same time we are saying that the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry should not be the internal troops or the operational troops but the interregional operational troops, internal troops protecting particularly important sites, along with—when requested by the republics—practical help against crime. This is the role we see for the internal troops.

To what extent will there be a serious purge in the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry? I would probably not have phrased the question like that. Speaking frankly, professionals who have worked here for a long time have had so much of these purges. We now need not speak about a purge but about the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry's quality. That is uppermost. I always recall 1989, when KOMMUNIST summed up the purge results of the internal affairs bodies, citing the figure of 167,000. Meanwhile, we have approximately 30,000 trained legal specialists per year. Just think how many years are needed to train professional staff for the internal affairs' bodies. I do not think we should be discussing a purge.

As for the policy of supporting the State Committee for the State of Emergency, an overwhelming majority of the collegium has resigned. As far as specific roles, let me iterate that this needs investigating. I do not wish, and will not influence, the investigation, even with a brief remark. I would merely like to conclude that the emerging problem is dismissals from office for carrying out unlawful orders. This needs to be reinforced with legislation. A Russian provision of law, along with provisions by certain republics, exists, but there is no such Union law provision. This affects not only law enforcement bodies but also any civil servant.

Plans Restructure

LD1709111291 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The Soviet Interior Ministry can no longer exist in its present from. There are too many personnel in the central headquarters whose work yields little. The ministry is to be restructured, General Viktor Barannikov, 51, appointed interior minister after the coup, told the TRUD newspaper today.

It is to become a coordinating and planning centre, the twentieth Soviet Interior Minister says. It has to analyse all information on the crime world and to distribute it to regional headquarters, it has to fight international and interregional crime, render practical assistance to the police and concentrate on preventing and combatting crime, said Barannikov, who is the first professional to head the ministry.

Fifteen republican interior ministers have agreed to work out proposals on restructuring the federal ministry, to determine the rights of the centre and the republics which are to be fixed by corresponding agreements, the minister said.

Barannikov stated the crime rate is on the rise in the country. Over two million crimes were committed in the first eight months of the year. Republics are to actively cooperate to stop this dangerous process, the minister said.

Bessmertnykh Cited on Foreign Policy Continuity

LD1709143491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1119 GMT 17 Sep 91

[TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabkin; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—The USSR foreign policy line of recent years is worth being actively and intensively continued. This line of new thinking is "highly productive" and a departure from it would turn into a tragedy for our foreign policy and for the national interests of our state. This was stated today by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the former USSR foreign minister, in a conversation with the TASS correspondent. No signs of a departure from the foreign policy line have yet been observed, he stressed.

The basic "agenda" of our foreign policy needs to be preserved, he continued. The fundamental elements predetermining the security of the Union and the republics and the negotiations processes for strategic and conventional weapons are contained within it. Under the current conditions, in Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's opinion, these processes should be accelerated "repeatedly," since the problem of reducing nuclear weapons is already simpler to resolve: the world no longer considers the USSR an enemy. "These processes could be fundamentally accelerated, and it would be worth actively trying to resolve a number of regional problems now, taking into account the favorable situation," he stressed.

According to Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, a Near East settlement should under no circumstances be omitted from the agenda." We are very close to a peaceful conference on the Near East, but this is a "very delicate and subtle" subject, he noted. If the conference falls through—either because it has not been properly prepared or because of some other blunder, then the entire region will suffer, and as you know it is situated very close to Soviet borders, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said. The former minister thinks that at present the situation is very favorable—the changes which have taken place engendered "immense confidence in the USSR." It is true, however, that the foreign side still cannot make up its mind who to deal with in the USSR, noted Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and it will be right if it maintains ties both with the central and the republican structures." There is no need for bias here, and any Western government will only gain from the presence of balance in such an approach." Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said that he, together with Eduard Shevardnadze and those who "have somewhat moved away from direct involvement in the foreign policy," will continue to deal with these issues within the framework of the foreign policy association. "We will render assistance in establishing such a policy that would meet the interests of all the republics and the entire country on the whole," he said.

Petrovskiy Interviewed on Coup, Foreign Ministry

91UF1143A Moscow TRUD in Russian
6 Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with V.F. Petrovskiy, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, by N. Shevtsov; place and date not given: "To Represent the Interests of the Entire People"]

[Text] **First Deputy USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs V.F. Petrovskiy reflects on lessons learned by Soviet diplomats during the putsch and the new tasks they face.**

[Shevtsov] Vladimir Fedorovich, first of all allow me to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs. My first question is: How do you evaluate the operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the period preceding and during the coup?

[Petrovskiy] Many differing opinions have been voiced on this topic, including what I consider unfair accusations against our ministry. We are now thoroughly, calmly, and objectively, analyzing the actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at this critical time for us. I think that it would be improper to run ahead of events and give a generalized evaluation of the actions of the diplomatic service until we have complete information and balanced conclusions are drawn on this basis. However, we may say already that an overwhelming majority of the diplomats who began perestroyka, including in the Soviet foreign policy establishment, remained faithful to this cause together with E.A. Shevardnadze. In the environment of rigid discipline characteristic of the foreign policy departments of all countries, all diplomats were faced with a serious choice during the coup.

It is no secret that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was one of the organizations which, after the beginning of perestroyka, vigorously sought to implement the policy of new thinking set forth by M.S. Gorbachev in practical issues. Real accomplishments both inside our country and abroad, from reducing the burden of military expenditures to ensuring human rights, are associated precisely with our diplomatic service. It is no accident that in the period preceding the putsch the Ministry of Foreign Affairs became a target for incessant attacks from the right. Finishing my response to your question, I would like to note that our collective feels badly about everything that happened during the days of the putsch. As far as its activities are concerned, I would like to stress yet again: An objective analysis of the events is required, which is what we are now involved in.

[Shevtsov] As you see it, how does the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs intend to structure its work now, in the environment of major changes currently underway in our country?

[Petrovskiy] At present, our main objective is to preserve the atmosphere of world trust which has been established in the years of perestroyka, and facilitate the resolute accession of our country to a contemporary level of maturity and interdependence of world civilization.

We cannot fail to see that the logic of the development of the historical process in the 20th century is bringing about the emergence of new, large geopolitical realities. Qualitatively new, large interstate associations, such as the European Community, are appearing within the new world system which is now emerging; subregional associations are being created in the territory of Asia and in the Pacific; measures are being taken to set up an African common market.

The same logic of social development necessitates the preservation of the unified space which comprises our Union, its organic entry into newly emerging international structures, and its openness to norms which exist in the democratic world. At the same time, the diplomatic service must take into account the quite natural processes which enhance the role of sovereign republics

in international intercourse. This is why we see our tasks as follows: In the course of its actual operations, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs should represent a coordinated position of the republics as much as possible.

The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Sovereign Republics has been in operation for more than a year now. We believe that it is necessary to expand this practice. Such councils are necessary within delegations and representative offices at international organizations and at the largest European and other regional forums. The position of a USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs who is responsible for contacts with the sovereign republics has been confirmed. In other words, the functions of coordination and consultation in the operation of the ministry should be enhanced considerably, all the more so because the diplomatic service has highly skilled specialists in all types of international activities, despite being the smallest state organization in terms of numbers.

At the same time the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while engaging in the strategic coordination of foreign policy, will focus on an entire set of issues associated with the fact that ensuring a defense capability and security is a common task of all sovereign states in the Union. In conjunction with this, the functions of subdivisions working on disarmament talks, and nuclear and space affairs, should be augmented considerably.

The economic sector of the ministry should merit much greater attention in the activities of our ministry. Merely the first steps are being taken in this field. A lot is yet to be done. We must create a mechanism capable of effectively promoting an economic reform.

The supreme leadership of our country should have complete information, particularly on foreign policy issues, rather than use sources from one or two departments. This is why it is so important to create, within the framework of the ministry, a service to provide appropriate information to the president of the country and the leaders of the sovereign republics alike.

It is also necessary to radically renew our personnel service and incorporate representatives of all republics in it. From the legal point of view, our personnel service should be brought into compliance with conditions which exist in similar services in democratic states, using international civil service as a model. We have taken a long and tormented road toward recognizing this. One of our young diplomats, V.F. Kenyaykin, former minister counselor in Italy who has also had experience working on the African continent, has now been appointed acting chief of the Main Personnel Administration of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In general, it appears that the role of functional subdivisions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will increase, whereas bilateral relations will begin to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the republics to a considerable degree. Our time poses serious challenges to us, both in the issues of "big politics" and in diplomatic affairs, necessitating that we take bold and unorthodox decisions which are impossible without taking all alternatives into account. This is why we welcome in every way possible helpful advice and critical remarks, not only by specialists but also by those who show interest in foreign policy and diplomacy.

[Shevtsov] You are involved in preparations for the Moscow meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the general European process. What is the situation regarding the conference?

[Petrovskiy] This conference is an important part of my work. From 15 August on I have been performing the full functions of its executive secretary, who acts on the instructions and the mandate of the representatives of all 35 states participating in this conference. As I take over from my predecessors, chiefs of the international secretariats of the Paris and Copenhagen meetings, I cannot fail to note that preparatory work for the Moscow meeting was evaluated as meeting the high standards which were set in the capitals of France and Denmark. Very close interaction between conferences of government representatives and numerous simultaneous public events, which will be held all over our country, will take place during the Moscow meeting. More than 50 public events are being planned. We have secured access to Moscow, without hindrance, for all participants in official and unofficial meetings; no foreign citizens will be refused a visa. We want this meeting to be as open as possible to broad circles of the public. At present, a dialogue between all who value democracy is more necessary than ever. After the failure of the coup d'etat, the issue of guarantees of the irreversible nature of democratic processes, under international law, is arising in a very acute manner. This may only be accomplished by a joint effort of the government and the public.

[Shevtsov] Many readers of our newspaper are interested in learning about personnel changes which have taken place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since the coup.

[Petrovskiy] Several immediate changes affected the leading cadres of the ministry. Yu. Kvitsinskiy has been relieved of the responsibilities of first deputy minister of foreign affairs. Deputy Minister for Cadre Affairs V. Nikiforov has been removed from his position. A new deputy minister for European affairs has been appointed. Yu.S. Deryabin, a world-renowned specialist on the European process, has taken this position.

As far as ambassadors are concerned, we are trying to analyze their behavior in a balanced manner. Eight chiefs of mission abroad have been called back to Moscow. We are now sorting out charges leveled against them in the press. This is not to say that their lot has been preordained. We need to review this thoroughly. Of course, detecting cases of behavior which violate the norms of generally accepted diplomatic practices is at issue rather than a massive purge, a cadre "shakeup." On

the whole, in resolving these issues we will proceed from standards which exist in the diplomatic services of civilized countries. In the future, we should expedite the adoption of a law on the diplomatic service which would ensure its non-party nature. An important step has been taken in this direction. The decision to de-party-ize the diplomatic service became one of the first acts after the failure of the coup.

[Shevtsov] Can we say that after the failure of the putsch, international agreements signed by our country will be complied with more strictly and efficiently?

[Petrovskiy] Perestroyka has made strict compliance with international obligations a law for our diplomacy. The enhancement of democratic processes after the failure of the putsch provides additional guarantees of future compliance with agreements. However, I would not say that the people who have vigorously counteracted the policy and diplomacy of new thinking, opposing the transformation of our country into an integral part of the community of rule-of-law states in every way possible, have ultimately retired from the stage.

[Shevtsov] What plans do you have for cooperating with the democratic forces of our country? What are you undertaking in this area?

[Petrovskiy] Our cooperation with these forces did not begin just a moment ago or recently. I embarked on a dialogue with representatives of various democratic forces and parties while I was still deputy minister for information and multilateral diplomacy affairs. My firm intention is to carry on this dialogue. I see democratic forces as a guarantee of safe prospects for new principles in politics and diplomacy.

The recent events showed quite graphically that the foreign policy line of Gorbachev-Shevardnadze has influenced the development of a truly democratic climate in our country.

I believe that an orientation toward democratic values will enable our diplomacy to express the interests of all peoples of a renewed Union.

Orthodox Communists 'Planning to Transform' Party

LD1809105391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Orthodox leaders of the Communist Party, the activities of which have been suspended after the abortive coup, are planning to transform the party.

The Bolshevik platform, which unites mostly convinced Stalinists, has expelled Mikhail Gorbachev from the party. It intends to hold a congress and return the Stalinist name—the National Communist Party of Bolsheviks.

Another movement inside the party, the Marxist platform, has set up an organizing committee to form a Union of Communists which they think should become the heir of the Communist Party.

Lenin Defense Committee Forms in Moscow

LD1809100791 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] A public committee to defend Lenin has begun to act in Moscow. This has been announced at a news conference. The committee was set up in connection with a the decision of the mayor's office to transfer the exhibits of the Lenin Museum to another place and return the building to the Moscow City Council as a legal successor of the old city Duma which was once housed there.

Volunteers are picketing the entrance to the museum. A group of volunteers was formed right on the Red Square. There are already more than 100 of them. We have no weapons, they say, but we are ready to stand up for the cause of Lenin. They are also determined to prevent the removal of Lenin's body from the mausoleum on the Red Square in Moscow and reburying him at a cemetery in St. Petersburg near the grave of his mother.

State Committee Discusses Centralized Education

PM1709114391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by I. Ovchinnikova: "Education Needs a Common Center"]

[Text] Is a common center needed in the present circumstances? That was the subject discussed by leaders of republic public education organs gathered at the USSR State Committee for Public Education 10 September.

I must say that over the last two years the USSR State Committee for Public Education led by G. Yagodin has refused to manage republic structures and give them directions and orders. The State Committee assumed the role of adviser and prompter and, most importantly, was a source of interesting pedagogical ideas, a source on which all republics drew without any coercion. In effect, in these two years the State Committee has become a council of republic ministers and all decisions were made by general consensus. Every republic ministry was free to adapt any decision to its own conditions. It is no coincidence that Sh. Shayakhmetov, Kazakh minister of public education, remarked that the State Committee for Public Education's experience in this respect is extremely instructive for others, adding that it would be catastrophic were it to disappear, while A. Rashidov, Tajik first deputy minister of public education, linked the major achievements in the development of national education with the democratic spirit prevailing at the State Committee for Public Education.

So neither G. Yagodin himself nor his immediate assistants have had to undergo any mental perestroyka or

give up so-called functions of authority—for them something else was at issue: whether the republics want to keep a Union body and, if they do, in precisely what capacity? And what quantity too, of course, since henceforth any central body will have to live within its means as provided by the republics or, to put it simply, exist on the money that the republics agree to allocate.

What emerged at the conference? Eight of the 10 leaders of the republic ministries indisputably agreed that a common center is essential. The Estonian representative, who was present as an observer, kept silent. The Russian education minister, E. Dneprov, and N. Malyshev, chairman of the Russian Committee for Science and Higher Education, occupied an appreciably different position from the others. But more about that later. First, a word about the arguments that the others put forward.

The first was the need for a unified education standard that would enable a secondary school graduate in Turkmenia to go to Novosibirsk or Kiev Universities if he so desired. "Nothing is as unifying as education," the Ukraine's minister of public education, I. Zyazyun, said.

Who is arguing? The standard of education in the republics is extremely diverse. This could not help but effect the approaches taken by the ministers from the Central Asian republics and, say, Belorussia. But L. Sukhnat, that republic's first deputy minister of public education, voiced a quite clear opinion: The republic is unable to provide children with all the requisite primers and it would be unfair if Russia appropriates all the printing capacities that we have all developed together—the "Prosveshcheniye" ["Enlightenment"] Publishing House must, in Lyudmila Konstantinovna's opinion, be a Union body.

In short, in one way or another everyone voted in favor of an interrepublic committee in whose funding the republics will take a proportional part. The Russian ministers were the last to speak. I must say in all frankness that it was not only the content but largely the tone of their statements that disturbed and grated on me and, I thought, everyone else present. Well, they said, you have declared your independence and now you are complaining that you lack first one thing, then the other, and then something else; Dneprov reproached his colleagues in the "single space," stressing that Russia would make do with horizontal ties, and if anyone pressed for an interrepublic committee, let it be a nongovernmental organization. He was backed by Malyshev. "What kind of unified educational standard can there be?" he mocked. "And what kind of center if it has no property, while Russia has 600 or so VUZ's [higher educational establishments]?"

In short, both ministers behaved as if they were masters of the situation. For that reason it is permissible to ask: What kind of horizontal ties can there be with one side acting as supplicant and the other as benefactor? Incidentally, N. Bayramsakhatov, Turkmen minister of public education, drew attention to the fact that if there is no interrepublic structure, it will be necessary to ask Russia for aid, which is awkward.

V. Belyayev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Public Education Committee, spoke very cogently about this, suggesting that two or three dozen VUZ's be retained to train top-grade specialists for the whole country. As for a Ministry of Public Education, he said, all countries with a federative and confederative system have one—why should we break it up instead of improving it?

It was at that moment that G. Yagodin received a telephone call from the president, inviting all the ministers to come and see him, which for some reason threw all Russia's representatives into confusion. It emerged that they would not confirm their viewpoint until they had consulted other members of the government and its head. But, thank God, no particular autonomy—much less, courage—was required of Russia's main pedagogues: They telephoned their bosses and their bosses gave them the go-ahead to sign an appeal to the country's president asking for an interrepublic committee on public education to be set up under Yagodin. After studying this appeal, the president said that it would be distributed to all members of the State Council, which would adopt the final decision.

Treason Charges Against Solzhenitsyn Dismissed

LD1709215391 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Soviet Prosecutor General Nikolay Trubin today said there is no evidence that prominent Soviet writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has committed any crime.

Trubin has completed examining the criminal case, instituted against Solzhenitsyn in 1974 on charges envisaged by Article 64, Point A (high treason) of the Russian Federation's Criminal Code.

The decision to dismiss the case on grounds other than rehabilitating Solzhenitsyn, i.e. in connection with the change of conditions (Solzhenitsyn was banished from the Soviet Union in accordance with the Soviet parliament Presidium's decree), has been considered groundless.

Trubin dismissed the case as there were no formal elements of a definition of a crime in Solzhenitsyn's actions.

The prosecutor general informed Solzhenitsyn about his decision.

Writer's Intentions To Return Noted

LD1709215691 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Chytov]

[Text] New York September 17 TASS—Prominent Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, living in the United States, today made a statement for the press in connection with the dismissal of the criminal case instituted against him in 1974, due to the absence of a criminal act.

"The decision of the USSR prosecutor general now removes legal obstacles impeding my return to my homeland. Therefore it becomes a reality, and I will return to my native land. But first, I should complete here my literary works I began earlier. Upon returning to Russia, other problems will encircle me, and I will share them with everybody," reads a statement by Solzhenitsyn from his estate in Cavendish, Vermont.

Media & Journalism

PRAVDA Pleads for Funds, Property Rights

PM1709134991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[PRAVDA Editorial Office appeal: "To USSR President Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and Members of the USSR State Council"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades!

This year, by force of circumstance, the PRAVDA Editorial Office has found itself in a critical situation. As a result of a number of voluntarist, legally unfounded decisions, we have found ourselves overnight to be economic bankrupts without any prospects. The editorial office has been deprived at a stroke of all its material and financial funds, not to mention its property. Even the desks at which generations of PRAVDA journalists have written their stories do not belong to us.

Journalists are making every effort to save the country's oldest newspaper. We are prepared to live and work under market conditions. But in order to reach the market we need the property which rightfully belongs to PRAVDA.

In this connection it is necessary to immediately resolve the question of the official transfer to PRAVDA's ownership of the building which it occupies, some of the newspaper production at the PRAVDA Printing House, as well as auxiliary institutions. All our appeals on this score have so far been simply ignored. Yet since 1945 PRAVDA has earned more than 700 million rubles in profit for the country and the party.

PRAVDA is part of our history, it is a national asset which individuals—whatever position they may currently occupy—have no right to dispense with.

[Signed] The PRAVDA Editorial Office

Our Commentary

Unfortunately, our appeal was not discussed at yesterday's State Council session. We realize that there are many problems in the country and that economic problems are the priority. Their resolution will determine the fate of the peoples—including millions of our readers.

The PRAVDA collective is going through a difficult time, but we are confident that PRAVDA will survive, because we rely in our work on our readers, who live in the different corners of our great fatherland.

The mistakes of the past are a thing of the past! The new PRAVDA will not uphold the interests of the partyocracy or the bureaucracy, as was the case quite recently. The newspaper will come to the defense of ordinary people, rank-and-file Communists. We intend to follow Russian laws explicitly, but we will not allow the newspaper to be run by all kinds of departments, which have been trying to stifle the newspaper—first morally, then economically. That is precisely why we are talking about ownership.

We have a work program. It includes the resolution of economic problems. Thousands of people have already made their contribution to the "PRAVDA Fund" and more than 100,000 have taken out subscriptions to the newspaper. And we cordially thank our friends, who are helping us to survive this difficult period.

You have the main say now, readers!

TASS Reviews 18 Sep Central Press

LD1809063591 Moscow TASS in English 0528 GMT 18 Sep 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—Leaders of ten Soviet republics attended a meeting of the State Council in the Kremlin on Tuesday to discuss a draft treaty on the economic union, newspapers report.

The draft was presented by economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, PRAVDA reports. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA quote Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy chairman of the Committee on Operative Management of the National Economy, who summed up the results of the meeting.

A draft agreement on measures to stabilise food supplies in republics will be finalised by the end of September, Luzhkov said.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said that the draft had been endorsed in principle. Republics have yet to form delegations to discuss agreements that will be included in the treaty, he said.

The republics are apparently unable to agree on an economic union at the State Council, according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The meeting produced a standard formula—"endorsed in principle". The draft will hardly bring economic union to what used to be the Soviet Union, it says.

PRAVDA opens its front page with an article by Georgiy Ovcharenko, who comments on the investigation of the failed coup.

The trial over the putschists should be public and open, unless the process reveals the truth about the plot by the "Soviet leadership", the consequences for the maturing of our democracy and for the authority of two presidents—of the country and Russia—will be unpredictable, Ovcharenko writes.

There are forces that oppose a public trial over the plotters, he believes.

Agronomist Aleksey Yemelyanov comments on the development of farms in the Soviet Union.

People's Deputy Tatyana Koryagina has joined a hunger strike held by Moscow City Council deputies in protest against the refusal by the Moscow Mayor's Office to endorse Major General V.S. Komissarov as city police chief.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes economic reforms in the Soviet Union will not succeed without military conversion. The organisers of the August coup represented the interests of the military-industrial complex, it writes.

The newspaper comments on the proposal to set up a single economic space in the country. Reforms in Russia are only possible at the level of a region that enjoys legal and economic independence.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met editors from national newspapers at the headquarters of the IZVESTIYA newspaper on Tuesday to discuss the role of news organisations in society, TRUD and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA report.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on the creation of national armies in individual Soviet republics. Fledgling democracies are scrambling to take up arms, it writes.

Newspapers write about the civil war in Yugoslavia (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA), developments in Albania (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA), Western help to the Soviet Union (PRAVDA) and popular fears prompted by the proliferation of nuclear weapons (TRUD).

Economic

Gorbachev Signs Orders for New Airline

LD1809083691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1806 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to the proposals of the Long Haul Air Routes Airline [ASDA] which is operating in accordance with regulations. In an order signed today by the head of the Soviet state, this airline is permitted to own, lease, and exploit civil aircraft and other aviation technology, jointly or with Soviet and foreign partners, including that of foreign manufacture.

The document allows ASDA to perform all types of aviation work and transport on internal Union and international long haul air routes observing the norms and regulations established by the aviation codex of the USSR and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The USSR president has instructed a number of ministries and departments to prepare, within two months, the relevant documentation necessary for the practical and commercial activity of ASDA, to prepare proposals on the introduction of changes to intergovernmental agreements between the USSR and other states connected with the use by ASDA of international air routes, and also to determine a location or basing for the aircraft of the new airline in the Moscow air terminal.

Aeroflot Opens New Firm for International Traffic

OW1709003291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet air line AEROFLOT has opened a special industrial-commercial association for international traffic and represents the company's interests abroad. The association is a separate commercial structure seeking to increase AEROFLOT's competitiveness in the world market.

It has appeared as a result of the merger of the Central Department of International Air Traffic, which had the licence to carry out 80 of international flights, and the International Commercial Department of Civil Aviation. Republican departments account for the rest of the external flights.

The board of the newly founded association includes officials from the Civil Aviation Ministries of the USSR, Russia and Russia [sentence as received].

A number of Soviet republics have opened their own air lines. They will be involved in international air traffic, too.

Article Views Threat of Silayev Resignation

PM1709112591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Article by I. Demchenko: "If Ivan Silayev Nonetheless Decides To Go..."]

[Text] The leaders of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy, in accepting the invitation to join it, understood very well that they would have to work under extraordinary conditions and implement unpopular measures, yet nonetheless not one of them refused to risk his popularity and the people's

trust. Two weeks later I. Silayev, the chairman of the "provisional government," has announced his resignation.

The direct reason was the accusation that Russia had usurped the property and rights of the republics and the Union, an accusation leveled by Yu. Luzhkov during a session of the committee. But although in recent years our top leaders set a kind of fashion for noisily offending each other, invariably in public, dragging an enormous number of officials and citizens into the spiralling explanation of relations, in this case the statement by the deputy chairman was rather used as a pretext. After all Yu. Luzhkov was far from the first or last to make such a rebuke against the Russian leadership. But all similar statements had been left unheeded.

In addition I. Silayev, not for the first time in a difficult time, is playing the trump card of resignation. You only have to recall, for instance, how the threat of his resignation from the post of Russian premier in February this year forced the Russian parliament to radically shift its viewpoint of the role of the republic government in the sensational "case of the 140 billion" and express trust and support for the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers, several of those members it was initially planned to punish and dismiss.

In this case I. Silayev's statement, even irrespective of whether or not he leaves the post of chairman, is killing at least two birds with one stone. First, the actions of the Russian leadership, which had given rise to serious tension in interrepublican relations, are in part rehabilitated in the public awareness. Second, I. Silayev himself demonstrates that he does not treasure the troublesome, albeit influential, post and in any case will not allow himself to be turned into a "whipping boy" responsible for the mistakes of his predecessors. The lack of prestige of the posts in the organs of the "renewed Union" is emphasized in particular by the fact that not one of the leaders of the provisional government wanted to leave his former work for the sake of the operational management of the national economy.

If I. Silayev nonetheless decides to go, his post should traditionally be taken by one of his deputies. But the logic of recent events indicates that the republics can submit their applications for this post and then the choice will be made on the principle of "anything but a Russian." Here, however matters may turn out, it is obvious that even the possibility of the change of leadership after such a brief interval of time will not promote the prestige of the new organ or its better execution of its functions.

The former system of selecting and placing cadres on the basis of recommendation and with the direct participation of the leading and guiding force of our society led to the point where we had what we had in the state leadership: an unprofessional parliament, an incompetent government, and a president not elected on an alternative basis. Even very prosperous countries cannot allow themselves such a collection, never mind our country, burdened by a mass of complexes.

After the well known events the republics finally received what they had sought for so long—the right to form union organs of power and management and to delegate to them the powers they consider necessary. But here another danger lies in wait for us: Will a republican nomenklatura not come to replace the party nomenklatura in the corridors of power?

The system for forming new organs approved by the Congress provides for quotas ensuring fair representation from the republics. But it absolutely fails to guarantee that truly competent and skilled people will come to lead the country. After all no one has yet proved that true internationalism also ensures true professionalism, that political convictions and personal loyalty to the ideals of democracy are invariably combined with competence and responsibility. It is no secret that appointments since the putsch have been made according to the former and not the latter criteria. And for all Russia's services, for all the enormous respect and admiration, it is impossible to forget what crude errors and impermissible blunders in the quite recent past were perpetrated by some of those Russian ministers who have now been provisionally entrusted with heading union departments.

It seems that agreement on the need to create representative union organs of power has already been achieved between the republics. I should merely like the representative nature of these organs to be determined not by point five in the questionnaires [possibly reference to question about nationality], not by a passport entry, but by an individual selection of personnel who would measure their grievances against the possible consequences.

Yavlinskiy Urges Adoption of Draft Treaty

PM1709200591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by G. Alimov: "Economic Union Necessary and Possible. Now It All Depends on the Republics"]

[Text] The question posed by IZVESTIYA in the subhead of yesterday's report on the State Council session still stands. Yes, politics disunited them; will the economy be a unifying factor? It will be if it does not get caught again in the grip of republican sovereignties and "special approaches," if it does not suffer the fate of a cart drawn by a team all pulling in different directions. That danger remains, it has not been eliminated.

One might of course take pleasure in yesterday's State Council decision on the draft Treaty on Economic Union. The document, prepared by a group of specialists headed by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, has been adopted as a basis. We, you will recall, have considerable experience of adopting "as a basis" documents which are then left entirely without a basis. Meanwhile, there is no time left, unless it has now begun running backward. At the State

Council session Grigoriy Yavlinskiy openly declared: "Either the draft treaty is adopted or we must begin splitting things up." Later I asked him: Is there a deadline after which this document loses all meaning? How much time do we have? About 2 months, he believes. No more than that....

"Wait a while, but how long can we wait?" he said. "What am I against? I am against duping people. Time is passing.... I am afraid that they will adopt the document while seeing in it something else and striving to achieve something else again. Well, enough of that! Let us say bluntly: Let us divide things up—and that is that. But I personally am not going to take part in that."

In G. Yavlinskiy's words, the draft Treaty on Economic Union that was presented is an integrated document. And you cannot take anything out of it. However, some republics are already saying: Yes, let us leave everything as it is, except we will change the banking system, we will rejig it. The old ailment! That is how it was in the times of the unforgettable Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, Grigoriy Alekseyevich smiled bitterly. Either the draft treaty is adopted in full—then it will work as a system—or no good will come of it.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy does not tire of reiterating that for him as an economist it does not matter what kind of ownership you have—Russian, Ukrainian, or Tatar. In due course the economy itself, private ownership, will answer the question: What belongs to whom?

Will we come to understand that? At least the next two to four weeks will show what will prevail in the republics. The State Council has set the tightest possible deadline for sorting questions out.

But meanwhile the country's economy (if it can be called an economy) is burning with a "blue flame." This is particularly clear to see in the consumer market, first and foremost as regards food. The State Council members received information from the USSR State Committee for Statistics and materials from the republics. These demonstrate that the situation in the food market virtually everywhere continues to deteriorate. In the first eight months the state purchases of livestock and poultry fell by more than 1.7 million tonnes, milk by 7.2 million tonnes, and eggs by 3.8 billion. The impartial statistics indicate that on the whole the production of foodstuffs has declined by 8.5 percent or 19.7 billion rubles in comparable prices. The continuing process of the decline in the rate of production is alarming. Whereas in January-March it fell by 6 percent, over the first eight months of the year the figure was 8.5 percent.

In these conditions the republics of the former Union must do the main thing—to pursue a course which comprehensively strengthens interstate cooperation in the production and supply of agricultural output and foodstuffs. Once again, time will show better than any documents whether this will work.

The republics cannot do without imports, either. There are still no definitive figures showing who needs how much of what. At the State Council session it was agreed to clarify the balance for each republic. Only after that, as Ivan Silayev, leader of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy, said, will organized purchases be made abroad. The committee will also work directly on that question. In the immediate future the primary question is one of purchases of grain, sugar, and vegetable oil. All republics need those products. But as for other types of food, in I. Silayev's words, priority here must be given to direct economic relations between the republics themselves.

The agenda of the State Council session on 16 September, as already reported, was very full. Not all the questions were discussed. In connection with the work on the draft Treaty on Economic Union the following items were removed from the agenda (for further work during the preparation of the treaty and the creation of new structures): the draft USSR Law "On Border Troops," the question of the organization of an interrepublic committee on public education, the improvement of the system of nature protection organs at Union level, and material provision for personnel of interna' affairs organs. There was only an exchange of opinions on the situation in South Ossetia.

The discussion in the Kremlin lasted until midnight. We journalists were not told what topics off the agenda were broached. Afterwards, as your IZVESTIYA correspondent learned, M. Gorbachev had quite a lengthy discussion with B. Yeltsin. The editorial office does not have detailed information on the content of the conversation yet.

Industrialists Plan Entrepreneurial Council

OW1709233091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2058 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Scientific and Industrial Union, the Association of Joint Ventures, the Association of Russian Banks and a number of other powerful organisations of industrialists and businessmen have drawn up draft articles of organisation of the Higher Entrepreneurial Council which is to operate under the State Council of the USSR.

The council will promote entrepreneurship in the country and the formation of new economic links in the Union of Sovereign States, and will give expert evaluations of draft legislation of the republics and the centre. Its functions include coordination of external economic cooperation and international business ties at a nongovernmental level. The council will comprise representatives of the business communities in all the republics.

The draft articles will be submitted for signature to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev whose initiative it was in the first place to set up this non-governmental body.

Role for Ruble as Reserve Currency Viewed

914A1156A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 91 p 1

[Article by Sergey Panasenko under the rubric "Point of View": "The Emergence of National Currencies Will Reinforce the Position of the Ruble"]

[Text] Under current circumstances, the introduction of their own currencies by individual republics will not undermine the financial stability of Russia, but on the contrary will reinforce the ruble which will begin to play the de facto role of a reserve currency.

This is the current point of view of Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, who warned several months ago that under the circumstances at the time, his republic might have no choice but to introduce a national currency. Recent events, including the now absolutely inevitable change in the functions of the USSR State Bank, have apparently prompted Georgiy Matyukhin to take a more optimistic view of the future of the Russian monetary system.

In commonly accepted terms, a reserve currency is the currency of a country in which the central banks of other states accumulate and keep reserve funds for international settlements. On a world scale, the American dollar and the German mark are reserve currencies, and to a smaller degree, the yen and the French franc. For now, the ruble cannot even dream of joining this league which, however, does not preclude it from becoming a reserve currency in its own region, or more precisely in the territory of the former USSR.

The first and principal condition for turning a currency into a reserve currency is that the issuing country be in a dominant economic and commercial position, and Georgiy Matyukhin points out this particular circumstance in proving his thesis. He says: "Russia will remain the main supplier of raw materials and many manufactured goods for the former republics of the USSR, and this is precisely what the continuous and increasing demand for rubles is going to be due to. All neighboring republics will have to accumulate rubles, even those which will formally ban the circulation of rubles on their own territories. The exchange rate of the ruble will go up, and at present this is precisely what we need."

He resolutely rejects even the thought of "dollarizing" trade between the republics similar to what has been done (with extremely lamentable results) in trade between the countries of the former CEMA. For example, Russia's foreign trade turnover within the bounds of the USSR economic space is on the order of 150 billion rubles. The republics will not have enough dollars to cover this turnover, even if they pool their resources.

Clearing with settlements in freely convertible currencies or in national currencies may be viewed as an alternative of sorts. However, clearing trade will be incapable of "servicing" the inter- republic flows of goods and services because it has a number of most serious shortcomings.

Georgiy Matyukhin goes on to say: "The Russian ruble will become the leading currency of this region. There is nothing to infringe on the dignity of other republics in this statement of an obvious economic fact. The national monetary units of very many countries are 'tied' to the leader currency (for example, the Swiss franc to the German mark), and this is merely a reflection of foreign trade realities."

This situation is quite advantageous for Russia because when a national currency becomes a reserve currency this actually amounts to an interest free and, to a considerable degree, indefinite credit for the country in question. This provides financing for increased imports of goods and services into the country and the export of capital. At the same time, this imposes on the issuing country certain obligations, which are aimed at reducing the budget deficit and maintaining a balance of domestic reserves and foreign obligations.

To what degree are the republics psychologically prepared for this scenario? In the opinion of the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, for now political considerations, rather than sober economic calculations, prevail in decision making. Hence the aspiration to a currency separation from the ruble. However, he believes that "very soon the republics will begin to agree to use the ruble along with their own currency internally, as is the case in Luxembourg where the Belgian franc circulates without hindrance in addition to their own franc."

The above arrangement prompts Georgiy Matyukhin to propagate the marking of already existing bills with a conventional sign depending of which central bank—of the Ukraine, Estonia, or Uzbekistan—issues them as a more inexpensive and practical alternative to printing new bills. A similar pattern is used in the United States where each of a dozen central reserve banks circulates bills with its own sign.

Matyukhin says: "In this case, we will know much more about the movement of the money supply, and will implement effective, mutually coordinated regulation. I do not rule out that some time later the ruble may proceed into the East European countries as well."

Georgiy Matyukhin has considerable apprehensions about "political reality outpacing the economic one" if the republics use national currencies. An absolute majority of citizens are not prepared to live under the conditions of floating currency exchange rates and, consequently, floating prices. There is no currency exchange

(what we have cannot be considered such). Entrepreneurs have no idea of how the currency of payment is different from the currency of transaction, and what hedging is, and so forth.

If everything develops more or less the way "the chief banker" of Russia expects, a considerable leap will be made toward attaining the desirable convertibility of the ruble—a goal which will hardly be achieved sooner by weaker national currencies. Georgiy Matyukhin concludes: "It is a great pity that the concept of a swift transition to the internal convertibility of the ruble has apparently been abandoned. There is nothing impossible about it. We have specific proposals as to how it can be accomplished. These proposals should be implemented precisely on the scale of a republic rather than the entire USSR. The experience of the world and postwar history indicate that this is possible to attain."

Changes in Supply Structure at Exchanges Likely

OW1709003591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The amount of irregular items (commodities, engineering products, foodstuffs, etc.) offered for sale at exchanges is likely to reduce in the near future, say experts at Moscow's Institute for Market Studies. However, for the time being these articles account for the bulk of the exchanges' turnover, which is a result of the frustration of previous economic ties.

This trend in exchange trading is seen in the first place in the emergence of specialized exchanges (construction, agricultural, oil and others). Besides, there have begun to emerge trade houses, which are going to run small wholesale trade and act as mediators between the manufacturer and the customer. The Russian Commodity Exchange has already announced it has founded a trading house and will open its offices in various parts of the country.

Growing Demand Expected for Stock Market

OW1709003691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By the beginning of this month there had been a dozen stock market exchanges registered in the USSR. However only some of them operated with securities.

The country's biggest stock market exchange opened regular trading early last month. Over the one month it has been in operation the transactions totalled 326 mln. rbls. According to the newspaper "DELOVOI MIR" (Business World), operations involving free credit resources accounted for up to 95 percent of the turnover. The sales of industrial shares and bonds were rather moderate.

Currently, according to the newspaper "KOMMERSANT", there are shares, bank certificates and bonds of 45 bodies of issue in circulation. Few of them had made the appropriate financial arrangements. Most of the shares in circulation could have been formally banned from trading. However, the situation in the stock market may change over the next few months. Privatisation may lead to the appearance of many new joint stock companies.

Experts Predict 15 Percent Drop in 1991 GNP

OW1709234091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2058 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] GNP in the Soviet Union may fall 12 in 1991 and national income will decrease 15 percent by the most conservative estimates, experts from Macroecon, a centre of macroeconomic analysis and forecasting in Moscow, believe. The centre's staff includes leading specialist from all-Union economic bodies who helped experts of the European Commission, IMF and IBRD prepare a review of the Soviet economy.

Material Production

According to the forecast, the output in the main sectors of economy will fall:

14 percent in industry
9 percent in construction industry
13 percent in transportation and communications and
15 percent in trade against last year.

Agriculture

The total output of agriculture will fall 5 percent against last year. The situation with food supplies in the USSR, according to experts, is compounded by a growing gap between prices for industrial goods and agricultural produce and by a disintegration of a centralised system which provided agricultural farms with equipEent, material and technological resources. Restraints imposed by the republics on shipping agricultural produce outside their territories have made things even worse.

Finances

Budget deficit has already exceeded a level anticipated previously by almost 6 times. Payments into the Economic Stabilisation Fund turned out to be 10 times less the planned figure which made it impossible to carry out programs of financial assistance to individual republics or to take steps to put the country's finances into order. A potential for an investment activity aimed at a structural adjustment of the Soviet economy has also been squandered.

Against the backdrop of hyperinflation and decreasing investments into industry, chances of overcoming the economic crisis look even more problematic.

Foreign Economic Ties

Foreign trade will fall 30 percent against last year, while trade with the former East bloc countries will plummet by 58 percent.

The Soviet foreign debt is expected to reach 4 percent of the country's GNP. Given that, chances of receiving foreign credits are becoming quite unrealistic. Experts believe that under the circumstances priority should be given to direct investments.

Agricultural

Foodstuffs Production Drops 20 Billion Rubles

LD1709114391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] We end our conversation on the harvest campaign by broadcasting alarming information which was reported by Luzhkov yesterday at a session of the State Council. Just hear this: The production of foodstuffs over 8 months has dropped by 8.5 percent, or by almost 20 billion rubles. Over the past 5-6 months there has been a significant drop in the production of foodstuffs. It is about 10-12 percent.

This is the limit indeed. It is not surprising that this road to nowhere in the agrarian policy has brought us to the total shortage of absolutely everything. Individual measures taken by the republics at present produce no results, according to Luzhkov. I will add that they will not produce any results in the future either.

Rural Social Development Symposium Held

PM1809090391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Solovyev: "European Experience for Vologda"]

[Text] Vologda—Soviet and foreign scientists are discussing in Vologda international experience of the solution of the countryside's social problems under conditions of change.

Professor A. (Bodenshtedt) [name as transliterated] from Germany, president of the European society of agrarian sociology, and doctors of sociology from Canada, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Finland, and Poland, and other foreign scientists together with our sociologists, economists, and business executives who have come together not only from the capitals but also from the provinces, are resolving a topical and serious task: how, in a country balanced on the verge of famine, to create normal human conditions for the peasants' life and work.

In the experience collected from almost the entire world there is much that is attractive and that could take root on Russian soil too. We also have our own Soviet successes and discoveries. For instance, the experience of privatization on the "Avrora" state farm, Gryazovetskiy Rayon, Vologda Oblast, described by its leader, RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputy Nikolay Podgornov and his private farmer colleagues, gave rise to unfeigned interest among all participants in the symposium. The thrust of their experience is that if you give the peasants complete freedom they will, having become proprietors, be concerned for themselves for their own social benefits.

The international symposium was organized at the initiative of the "embryonic" Vologda scientific center of the RSFSR Academy of Sciences with the active support of the European society of agrarian sociology and also of sponsors.

Scientific

Cosmos-2155 Satellite Launched 13 Sep

LD1609160391 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—A regular "Cosmos-2155" artificial earth satellite was launched in the USSR by means of a "Proton" carrier-rocket on September 13, it was officially announced here today.

It is fitted out with equipment to relay telegraph and telephone information on centimeter frequencies. The sputnik was placed on an orbit, which is close to stationary and has the following parameters: 35,850 kilometers from the earth's surface, inclination to the equator—1.3 degrees, revolution period—23 hours 56 minutes. The sputnik's equipment is functioning normally.

Mir Cosmonauts Complete Fourth Month in Orbit

LD1809092291 Moscow TASS in English 0856 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—The crew of the ninth main expedition on the Soviet "mir" orbital complex, consisting of Anatoliy Artsebarskiy and Sergey Krikalev, has completed its fourth month in outer space. It is a routine day on the complex today. The cosmonauts are surveying the territory, adjoining the Karabogaz-gol Gulf in Turkmenia, the Hunger steppe in Uzbekistan and the Aral area of Kazakhstan. These surveys will help Soviet farmers to properly assess soil conditions and vegetation in these areas. Surveys are also being carried out of the Persian Gulf area for the purpose of evaluating the ecological conditions in that region.

Besides, the cosmonauts are getting ready the scientific equipment that will be used by the international Soviet-Austrian crew. The latter is expected to be orbited on October 2, 1991. In addition to the commander, this international crew will include two other cosmonauts—representatives of Austria and Kazakhstan. The first crew will include Soviet cosmonauts Aleksandr Volkov, Toktar Aubakirov (Kazakhstan) and Franz Fibek of Austria. The second—Aleksandr Viktorenko of the USSR, Talgat Musabayev of Kazakhstan and Klemenz Lotaller of Austria.

The commander of the ninth main expedition will return to the earth together with the international crew, while Sergey Krikalev will remain on the orbital complex as board engineer of the tenth main expedition.

As to rumours about the space complex, chief of the cosmonauts training centre Vladimir Shatalov has denied that the Soviet side is allegedly prepared to sell the "key" to the "Mir" station.

"I believe the orbital laboratory should not be sold. We must cooperate on mutually profitable terms and make joint use of it," General Shatalov said. "There are sufficient grounds for this," he said.

Citizens Fear Radiation From Local Nuclear Plant

LD1709231891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Summary] According to a report from Yekaterinburg, the Olkhovka marshes just by Beloyarsk nuclear station are being avoided by people, although representatives of the station have insisted that its waste is absolutely safe. But the waters from the marsh flow into the Pyshma, from there into the Tura and then into the Tobol and into the Arctic, so Moscow scientists from the scientific research institute for nuclear power plants made a study and confirmed there was no danger. A similar conclusion was made by scientists of the Institute of Ecology of Plant and Animal Life of the Urals Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences. But people are still worried. Chernobyl has taught us to be of little faith, and so it has been decided to continue scientific studies of the radionucleides "trap", which will cost nearly 200,000 rubles and the oblast will have to pay for it. But is Beloyarsk the only one to be concerned with isotopes and other terrible elements in the Urals?

New Technology Used on Radiation Victims

LD1709103191 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Yelena Alikhanyan]

[Text] Kiev September 16 TASS—The latest methods developed by the International Institute of Bioengineering and Bioengineering Technology can flush over 80 per cent of ionizing radiation from the child's organism in only one hour. An adult can shed half of the absorbed radiation over this time. The methods today began to be introduced in several Kiev's hosptails using Japanese-made diagnostic equipment. Hundreds of children from the Chernobyl zone will receive highly-qualified medical aid.

"Under an accord with the Chernobyl International Association, we will carry out work in clinics under the guidance of chief radiologist of the republican Health Ministry Tamara Sivachenko," said Vladimir Grigorchuk, doctor of bioengineering and Oriental medicine who heads the institute.

"To this end, ten physicians, who are international class specialists in bioengineering, and two engineers who developed our equipment, arrived in Kiev. Our staff, who have a major branch in London, also patented the newest methods to treat diabetes, psoriasis and other diseases and launched the offensive on AIDS.

"The method that has been proposed by us does not envisage even injections and enables children who suffer from leukemia to do without bone marrow transplantation. Recovery is projected to occur within a month," Grogorchuk said.

"We have recently held the first international courses on bioengineering in London and have, in addition to the aforementioned treatment mothods, patented and offered to the international market the first bioengineering technologies to rear precious fish and hen species. Being ecologically clean, they increase agricultural process productivity five-fold."

Military

Military Personnel To Get Pay Raise, Tax Breaks

PM1709135191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Soldiers' Pay Set To Rise"]

[Text] The editorial office telephones have been ringing ever since we published the report "At the State Council" in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA for 7 September. Everyone asks the same question: Please explain the line in the TASS report that ""The State Council has approved proposals to raise servicemen's pay'."

We put this question to Lieutenant General L. Ivashov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Administration of Affairs. Here is what he said:

"On 9 September the USSR president signed the decree 'On the Remuneration of USSR Armed Forces Servicemen'.

"To guarantee the social protection of servicemen and members of their families and enhance the prestige of military service, the decree establishes higher rates of pay for servicemen as of 1 October this year.

"As of 1 October the decree exempts servicemen from income tax and the tax levied on bachelors and single citizens (small families)."

Centralized Control of Nuclear Arms Iterated

LD1709231791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The statement made by President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev on the necessity of republics exercising control over nuclear arms created quite a stir yesterday. Today, Army General Kobets, Russia's state counsellor for defense issues, calmed the public. He said that everything that Nazarbayev said is in keeping with the provisions of the military and economic agreement between the members of the renewed union; in other words, if a question of using nuclear arms does arise, then the decision concerning this will be adopted jointly by the president of the Union, the Union defense minister, and the leaders of the republics on the territory of which these arms are deployed. God willing, this will never happen.

Commentary Addresses Concerns Over Nuclear Arms

LD1709184791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Nikolay Agayants commentary]

[text] A total of 1,398 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, 940 submarine-based missiles, and 162 Soviet heavy bombers are on constant alert duty. A total of 10,271 nuclear warheads continue to be ready to strike at the enemy at any moment. All that needs to be done is to press a switch on the main control panel. Is our top secret system of command codes for the launch of strategic nuclear weapons safe? Here is Radio Rossii commentator Nikolay Agayants to reflect on this topic:

[Begin Agayants recording] The turmoil and confusion of the quite understandable euphoria of the days following the putsch—president free; democracy triumphs—has, whether we like it or not, pushed into the background a vitally important or, as the saying goes nowadays, a momentous problem. Whose finger was on the nuclear button during the coup? World public opinion is alarmed—and clearly for good reason—that for three days a great power was in the hands of adventurists and scoundrels—a state of affairs that could have spelled calamity not just for the country but for the whole world.

Now passions have died down little by little, but the question of Soviet nuclear arsenals in the context of the collapse of the Union and the appearance of independent states is still extraordinarily acute. Indeed, who today has real power? Where are the nuclear weapons positioned? Where can they be relocated? How can the strictest control over them be ensured in the present conditions of confusion and political instability?

There are many proposals for ways of preserving security in the present complex conditions. They include holding talks on complete renunciation of tactical nuclear weapons; and agreeing that the republics, on becoming independent, should sign a treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and declare themselves, like the Ukraine, nuclear-free zones. But here, too, there are serious caveats, because the implementation of such projects would require special juridical legalities, including reliable guarantees on the part of those who will possess the weapons. It would also require the necessary time and considerable financial expenditure.

The strategic missiles are taken from nuclear-free Ukraine to the territory of Russia—what then? For all her limitless expanses, Russia is then turned inevitably into a powder keg or, in the worst event, which is not yet ruled out, into a nuclear target. Entirely legitimate worries arise concerning the continuing confusion over the terms transfer of command, dual command, and so on, which do nothing to clarify the question of how the control of nuclear weapons will ever be implemented on that same Russian territory. To put it briefly, unfortunately, it is a formula with many unknowns. Perhaps French President Mitterrand is right to propose that a meeting of the four powers in possession of nuclear weapons in Europe be held as soon as possible. [end recording]

Radiation Normal at Site of Komsomolets Sinking

LD1709105891 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Anna Scherbakova]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 16 TASS—Radiation background measurements on the Norwegian sea floor near the site where the Soviet Komsomolets submarine sank have shown no deviation from the natural norm. This is one of the main conclusions made by participants in the expedition aboard the research ship "Akademik Mstislav Keldysh."

As is known, the Komsomolets submarine sank on April 1989 under strange circumstances, killing 42 Soviet seamen. Today, scientists began analyzing materials collected during the month-long expedition to the site of the accident.

Taking part in the expedition were researchers from Moscow, and St. Petersburg and specialists of the Dutch firm "Smith."

Six times researchers went down to inspect the submarine's hull from the outside, take samples of water and sediments and pictures. When processed these materials

will enable the scientists to give a more specific assessment of the underwater environment. Plans are being studied for floating the submarine which is now reposing at the depth of two kilometers. A project has been worked out by Soviet and Dutch specialists and may be realized in the summer of 1993, if sponsors are found for the purpose.

"The hull of the submarine armed with nuclear and conventional weapons was not damaged when it hit the sea bed and no radioactive contamination occurred. This was shown by high-precision measurements of water parameters to detect radio nuclides," Academician Igor Spasskiy, general director of the design bureau which created the submarine, told TASS.

Baltic Affairs

Baltic Leaders Hold Talks With Bush

LD1709202791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1724 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 17 Sep (TASS)—U.S. President George Bush today met Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Vytautas Landsbergis, and Arnold Ruutel, leaders of the Baltic republics.

After a conversation that lasted for an hour and one-half, the leaders of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia told journalists that in the course of the conversation the issue of the deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic republics was discussed. In the opinion of Landsbergis, this issue should be discussed not only at the negotiations between the Baltic republics and the USSR, but also in the course of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue.

Gorbunovs, Landsbergis, and Ruutel left Washington for New York on the same day to attend UN General Assembly session.

Foreign Ministers Meet Bush

OW1809162791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1430 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's foreign minister Lennart Meri told BF's [BALTFAX] correspondent that the major issue on the agenda of the meeting between the U.S. President and leaders of the Baltic republics was the proposed removal of Soviet troops from their territories. Since the republics' independence is recognized, there are no legal grounds for the presence of Soviet troops on their soil, L. Meri pointed out.

L. Meri also said that Estonia's former consul general in New York Ernst Jaakshin will serve as his country's ambassador to the U.N.

Meri Describes Meeting

OW1709201391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr. Lennart Meri, Estonia's Foreign Minister, who is currently in New York, told "BALTFAX" that a meeting between U.S. President George Bush and the chairmen of the parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Mssrs Arnold Ruutel, Anatolis Gorbunovs and Vitautas Landsbergis, had taken place in Washington on the morning of September 17. According to Mr. Meri, George Bush had agreed with the Baltic leaders that the main problem facing the Baltics now was the withdrawal of Soviet troops from its territory. The representatives of the three Baltic countries were emphatic that after their independence was recognized, there were no legal grounds for the troops to be present there. The three Baltic leaders had arrived in the USA to take part in the session of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, which will admit them to this organisation.

Mr. Meri also gave the name of Estonia's Ambassador to the UN—Mr. Ernst Jaakson, former Consul General of Estonia in the USA, who had represented in the USA its government in exile.

Baltic States Become Full Members of UN

LD1709202691 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1944 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] This is the parliamentary radio studio. Our communications link with New York has just been restored. We have received the news that about 10 to 13 minutes ago, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were admitted to the United Nations as real members.

You can hear in the background the noise in the hall of the United Nations. At the moment, members of various state delegations are making speeches congratulating the newly admitted states to the United Nations, including Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The UN session started at 2216. The session discussed the admittance of other nations as full members to the United Nations, including Micronesia, the Marshal Islands, South and North Korea. At 2220 documents were presented to the session by the Security Council, which recommended that these countries be admitted to the United Nations. Countries sponsoring these countries were named. As I have already mentioned, at 2230 the three Baltic states, together with other states presented, became members of the United Nations.

We have just heard that representatives of the admitted nations will make speeches. We will report about this later.

Ruutel Addresses UN General Assembly

LD1809090391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2335 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations Organization, 18 Sep. (TASS)—"Estonia is again ready to play its role and take its responsibility in order to strengthen international confidence as it did when it was a member of the League of Nations endowed with full rights," Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Estonia, stated on Tuesday. After all three Baltic states had been admitted to the UN, he addressed the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly which has opened here. "Having restored links with the international community, which were broken off for 50 years, Estonia will again be able to help build collective security," A. Ruutel said.

"As far as our relations with the Soviet Union are concerned, I can assure you that these relations will be absolutely friendly... We have been neighbors for a long time and so we remain. Soviet Russia was the first foreign state to recognize the independence of Estonia in 1920. The recognition of this anew by the Soviet Union now enables us to build relations in a spirit of mutual trust and equal partnership upon the basis of normal state relations," observed the president of Estonia's Supreme Soviet. He stressed that "such relations depend to a very large degree upon the development of democratic forces and traditions in Russia and the Soviet Union. In this connection, we have a particular interest in seeing a Soviet Union that is economically and politically stable."

Touching on the question of human rights, he said that some members of the United Nations have quite naturally expressed interest in the way in which Estonia is going to respect the human rights of the large minority of non-Estonians who have moved into the country during the period since its independence was lost. "I have to state categorically that Estonia will continue to observe the tradition of respect for the rights of minorities as was the case during the period between the two world wars." A. Ruutel invited the UN to participate in monitoring the way in which guarantees of the rights of the minorities in Estonia are implemented now.

Dwelling upon security issues, he pointed out that Estonia welcomes firm links with all countries. "The time of blocs has passed, and we see no reasons for joining one so-called side or another, and indeed such sides no longer exist," said the Estonian leader.

He expressed concern in connection with the "large number of foreign forces deployed on Estonian soil." "We expect that all of these questions will be solved rapidly by means of negotiations, as was the case with Poland, Hungary, the former GDR and Czechoslovakia. Here, I hope, the international community will be drawn actively into the solution of this tricky problem. We also hope that the pace that has been built up in the process of disarmament in Europe will enable the Soviet Union in the foreseeable future to sign as quickly as possible agreements on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Estonian soil," noted the chairman of Estonia's Supreme Soviet.

Gorbunovs Addresses UN

LD1809163191 Moscow TASS in English 0936 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations September 18 TASS—"The community of nations has regained three of its members it lost during the Second World War—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The three Baltic republics, regaining independence, have enriched the world, and brought more freedom to the Soviet Union, Gorbunovs, president of the Latvian Supreme Council, said on Tuesday at the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly immediately after it had decided to admit into the United Nations a group of new members, including Latvia. This was the first speech by a leader of independent Latvia in the United Nations.

"The Soviet Union recognised Latvia as an independent state on September 6", Gorbunovs said. "Latvia has thus been recognised de- jure as a subject of international law. But many things connected with our bilateral relations remain to be discussed. Not all the consequences of the Stalin-Hitler criminal pact have been eliminated in Latvia by now. Units of the Soviet Armed Forces are still stationed illegally in our territory. There are other matters awaiting solution, including the status of the illegally confiscated property".

"Restoring its independence, Latvia assumes new obligations. Because of the Russification policies that were conducted by the previous regime, Latvians are about to turn into an ethnic minority in their native country. At the same time, as a state with a constitutionally and democratically elected government, we are obliged to guarantee equal rights to ethnic minorities and individuals", Gorbunovs said.

Gorbunovs believes that only the previous regime is to blame for the present situation. There is a need for democratic debates and for the working out fair laws. "Our motto is that democratic aims can only be achieved by democratic means", Gorbunovs said.

Landsbergis Addresses UN

LD1809164191 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations September 18 TASS—"Independent countries of the whole world who have created the United Nations admitted Lithuania into their family today", Vytautas Landsbergis, president of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, said on Tuesday, addressing the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly after the three Baltic states were admitted into the United Nations.

"Lithuania is an ancient European state existing for eight centuries. But our neighbours wiped Lithuania twice from the political map over the past 200 years. And now, like the fabulous bird phoenix, it arose again from the ashes", Landsbergis said.

Regarding Lithuania's foreign policy, Landsbergis noted that his country declares for the widening of nuclear-free zones and areas of confidence. "But our joy is clouded by the presence of foreign troops which entered our country in 1940. We look for your support to ensure their prompt withdrawal".

"We are not hostile or bear a grudge against anyone of our neighbours. We are creating a democratic state in which there will be room and freedom for everyone, on a

basis of human rights and dignity, enjoyed by all the people, rather than on the rights of separate ethnic groups, someone's name, language or culture", Landsbergis said.

Most-Favored-Nation Status Imminent for Baltics

PM1709145591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report from Reuter, UPI, AP roundup: "Baltic Countries to Get Most Favored Nation Status"]

[Text] U.S. trade representive in Bonn Carla Hills said on Wednesday that in the very near future Washington would normalize its relations with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania by granting them most-favored-nation status. Last week, when, as is known, Washington's diplomatic recognition of the three Baltic states was announced, two U.S. congressmen immediately informed the U.S. public of their intention to submit a bill for consideration by Congress on granting these countries most-favored-nation status, which would enable Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to carry out trade transactions with the United States while spending the minimum amount on customs duties.

Baker Visits Baltic Countries, St. Petersburg

PM1609133991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

["Own information" report under general headline: "U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Lubyanka at Last"]

[Text] On the evening of 13 September James Baker arrived in St. Petersburg. The U.S. secretary of state and Anatoliy Sobchak, the city's mayor, who greeted him, left the airport for the residence of the U.S. consul general, where they had talks.

In Tallinn, where U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived 14 September, he had talks with Supreme Soviet Chairman Arnold Ruutel. Problems of bilateral relations and the Baltic states' inclusion in the world community were discussed at the meeting. Baker also met with Prime Minister E. Savisaar and made a statement for the press, from which journalists learned that the United States is allocating $14 million to the three Baltic republics by way of concrete aid. Most-favored-nation status in trade will be extended to these republics.

A few hours later J. Baker set out for Riga. He passed on to the Latvian leadership information received from the USSR defense minister on a possible date for the start of the Soviet troop withdrawal from the Baltic region—1 January 1994. If the republics help to resolve questions of building apartments for servicemen on the territory of Russia, the troops might be withdrawn earlier.

On the evening of the same day Baker had meetings in Vilnius with Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman V. Landsbergis and Prime Minister G. Vagnorius. The visit to Lithuania lasted only approximately 150 minutes. At a subsequent news conference Landsbergis evaluated it as brief but very substantive.

Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia Join IAEA

OW1709224991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The three Baltic states have been granted membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at its annual conference in Vienna on September 16.

The IAEA vas set up in 1957 to do research in and oversee the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Representatives from 113 countries now take part in its work.

A release by the press-service of Estonia's Foreign Ministry says that the republic has joined the IAEA primarily because it wants to carry out studies and, if necessary, decontamination work in areas that may be contaminated by radiation. One example cited in the press-release is the town of Paldiski near Tallinn where there used to be a base for Soviet nuclear-propelled submarines.

Estonia

Tallinn Hosting Republican Conference 19-20 Sep

OW1709191691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 6th conference of the consultative committee of the republican governments' leaders and representatives is to take place in Tallinn on September 19-20.

According to the Estonian Government press office, the meeting will be attended by prime ministers of Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, deputy prime ministers of Latvia, Russia, Georgia and representatives from the governments of other republics. They are expected to discuss prospects for economic cooperation.

The Consultative Committee was created to promote horizontal economic relations between the republics. Its first conference was held in August, 1990.

The 6th conference will open on September 19 at 3 p.m. in the Tallinn Center "Sakala". A press conference on the results of the conference is scheduled for September 20 at 4 p.m.

Azerbaijan Prime Minister Arrives in Tallinn

OW1709201891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Gassan Gassanov arrived in Tallinn on September 17. The agenda of his visit which is to last 4 days includes meetings with his Estonian counterpart Edgar Savisaar and republican ministers.

Shortly after he arrived at the city's airport, Mr. Gassanov told a "BALTFAX" correspondent that the purpose of his visit is to establish direct economic links with Estonia. According to Mr. Gassanov, Azerbaijan could become a "bridge" linking Estonia economically vith the Middle East and Turkey, while Estonia, in its turn, could be a "bridge" linking Azerbaijan to Scandinavia. In Mr. Gassanov's opinion, Estonia will also be interested in Azerbajian's farm products.

Comments on Arrival

LD1709230491 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Gasan Gasanov, the Azerbaijani prime minister, has arrived in Tallinn for an official visit, at the invitation of the Republic of Estonia Government. Welcoming the visitor at Tallinn airport was Edgar Savisaar, chairman of our government. At 1230 Ain Saarna asked for an interview at the airport on behalf of the Estonian radio.

[Begin recording] [Saarna] It is well known that the situation in the southern republics of the USSR is tense at present. And yet Mr. Gasanov found that just now there is a need to visit Estonia. Why?

[Gasanov in Russian with passage by passage translation into Estonian] Mr. Savisaar and I have been wanting to meet for a long time. [passage omitted] I think that the former USSR did not provide opportunities for Azerbaijan and Estonia to meet because we were too far away from each other as far as our lands were concerned, and in the light of all strings of administration being located in the center. Direct links will evidently provide an opportunity for us to get to know each other better and closer.

We are one of the southernmost republics and Estonia is one of the most northern ones. We have a well-developed agriculture and we think that for Estonia we are of interest from the point of view of agricultural production and we could certainly organize joint production and processing and deliveries to Estonia. Apart from that, Azerbaijan could serve as a bridge for Estonia for access to Middle Eastern countries—Iran and Turkey with whom we have already practically integrated. And Estonia would be of interest to us as a bridge to Finland, Sweden, Denmark and other—that is European, Scandinavian countries. This is the format which I have brought along.

[Saarna] And a question to the Republic of Estonia prime minister. Mr. Savisaar, one could perhaps say that Mr. Gasanov, the Azerbaijani prime minister, is the first guest of the sixth meeting within the Tallinn process, even though the meeting begins only on Thursday.

[Savisaar] The meeting begins on Thursday but there are first meetings today because this time one can expect more top-level representations than usual. And for this reason talks will also be more serious: Decisions can be made there and then, and all this will take more time than usual. For this reason we are beginning with bilateral meetings today. [end recording]

Savisaar Discusses Talks With Moscow

PM1709143791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Leonid Levitskiy report under the "Direct Link" rubric: "Estonia Reaching Agreement with Moscow"]

[Text] Tallinn—Talks with Moscow are being conducted in five spheres—diplomacy, the army, internal affairs, transport, and communications, Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar has said.

There are no problems in the field of diplomacy. Relations between the countries will be established within the next few days. E. Savisaar and Internal Affairs Minister V. Barannikov have signed an agreement on combating crime. The Union has pledged to return criminals who have fled from Estonia and to provide the Estonian police with weapons and everything it needs. Of course, not gratis. One escort regiment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will be withdrawn from the republic before the end of the year, and the second next year. Talks on the fate of the armed forces in Estonia are proceeding in a more complex manner and are continuing.

There is least clarity of all at present in economic matters.

"Whether we sign some agreement with the Union depends on what becomes of it," E. Savisaar told an ETA correspondent. "Estonia now is a more pronounced juridical subject than the Soviet Union. We have to get accustomed to the fact that there is no longer a Soviet Union distributing resources."

There is more clarity in relations with Russia. I. Silayev and E. Savisaar have signed a joint communique and a protocol on intergovernmental relations. The documents confirm the validity of all the economic treaties concluded between the republics for this year. A protocol defining economic and financial relations in 1992, Estonia's investments in the Russian oil industry and power generation, and the customs arrangements between the

two republics is to be prepared before 15 October. An agreement on state borders, territorial waters, and the Baltic Sea economic zone is to be drawn up before the end of the year.

Economic ties in 1992 will be built on a clearing basis with a gradual transition to world market prices. The republics will seek to avoid customs control when exporting and importing goods.

At this same meeting with E. Savisaar I. Silayev—this time as chairman of the Committee for Operational Management of the USSR National Economy—signed an ordinance on the additional allocation of grain, sugar, vegetable oil, and agricultural machinery to Estonia.

Savisaar Says Estonia To Share Foreign Debt

LD1709102691 Moscow TASS in English 1015 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn September 17 TASS—Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar on Tuesday said Estonia should pay part of the Soviet Union's foreign debt.

He said the portion will depend on the amount of investments in the Estonian economy. According to local newspapers, this sum totals six billion roubles.

Transfer of Military Commissariats Begins

OW1809120691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0945 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Estonian Land and Border Defence Department Andrus Oovel has told BF [BALTFAX] that the transition of military commissariats in the republic to the Estonian authorities started on Tuesday.

The Military Comissioner of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Rein Poder met members of a special commission of the Estonian Republic formed to supervise the transition on Tuesday to settle arising problems.

Technical details were worked out. The two sides agreed that after signing an appropriate document officials from the Defence Department will be on duty at the commissariats, each of which will have one room for staffers paying pensions to retired servicemen.

Oovel said that the Estonian side is especially interested in the files of the drafting stations. Poder claimed all papers to be in order.

Government Issues Appeal on Property Claims

LD1709085791 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Over 20 issues were on the agenda of today's session of the Republic of Estonia Government. [passage omitted] A government appeal was adopted to the governments of all UN member states. In it a proposal is made to other governments to make their claims for property and money or other claims of an economic nature, which in the future might become obstacles to the development of relations between the states, by 1 January 1992. The text of the address will be published in the press. [passage omitted]

The government decided that the republican Foreign Ministry, foreign economic department, and customs department will be given premises in the former Estonian Communist Party Central Committee building.

At the government's news conference Transport Minister Tiit Vahi stated that starting from 1 October the first postage stamps of the restored Republic of Estonia will be available. For the time being USSR stamps will also be valid but from 1 January 1992 only Republic of Estonia postage stamps will be valid.

Government Meets on USSR Bank Funds, Soldiers

LD1709093391 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Republican Government held its session today at Toompea. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] At the government's news conference Jaak Leimann, minister of the economy, was asked to comment on the banking situation.

[Leimann] [passage omitted] These 2.2 billion rubles [R] of Estonian savings in the USSR State Bank or a little bit more are indeed a USSR credit resource, and not located in Estonia or in Tallinn; however, only USSR State Bank offices are here and so we have placed the money in the Union State Bank. Now that we are independent—and not just for that reason, but also keeping in mind the economy in the USSR—it is highly questionable what section of this could have been or will now be put into use here by the owners of these savings. It will have to be very carefully discussed and weighed how Estonia will be able to help here. [passage omitted] But I still fear that a certain amount of this sum will simply disappear. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The cash crisis also continues. The USSR has, however, promised banknotes to the value of R100 million. [passage omitted]

Raivo Vare, minister of state, is back from Moscow, having had lengthy talks with USSR army commanders, and now one can claim with certainty that Estonian boys will be home by Christmas. Over to Raivo Vare.

[Vare] A directive—even if it is a secret document—has already been issued according to which all the young men whose term will come to an end in the autumn will be released immediately, at once. And that applies also to those whose terms have passed, but they have been detained for some reason, including any form of disciplinary punishment, and similar reasons. Likewise, the directive provides clear instructions with respect to those who in terms of the Soviet Army have been termed deserters; they, too, will be registered as having retired, so to speak. Next, with respect to those young men who continue their service, whose term is not due to end this autumn, nor has it passed, with respect to those, a position in principle has been adopted, and that is very simple: all are to go home, but this will not take place all at once and en masse; it will take place in dribs and drabs by military unit. [passage omitted]

All this will take place within the next two or two-and-a-half months, or three months at the latest. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prosecutor Notes Action Against Coup Supporters

OW1709192491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prosecutor General Leo Urge told the Estonian parliament Tuesday that the Estonian Prosecutor's Office has instituted legal proceedings against only six persons who supported last August's failed coup.

Mr. Urge said that the two leaders of the so-called workers' detachments defending the Soviet power in Estonia Mikhail Lisenko and Vladimir Belov had been arrested. The workers' detachments, formed in May last year, have been terrorizing the Estonian Customs Service on the north-eastern economic border of the republic.

The Estonian Prosecutor's Office has also issued warrants to arrest Igor Shepelevich, former director of the Poogelmann plant who actively supported the Emergency Committee, Alexander Tsvinev, chairman of the Sillamae city council and Gennadiy Smirnov, member of the Sillamae city council (the parliament stripped them of parliamentary immunity). However, all the three accused men managed to leave Estonia.

Mr. Urge told the Estonian parliament that the Estonian Prosecutor's Office has reached an agreement with the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office that it would extradite the three men if they are found on the Russian territory.

Mr. Urge said the case against Lisenko also involves the radio station "Nadezhda" which illegally broadcasted from the territory of a military unit, as well as the Intermovement which long propagandized ethnic hatred.

Agriculture Minister Opposes State Subsidies

OW1709225091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at the session of Estonia's parliament in Tallinn on September 17, the republic's Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arvo Kuddo, voiced his opposition to providing state subsidies to agriculture, which would increase the income of residents of rural areas. "Our purpose is to devise economic mechanisms for making higher incomes possible", he said. Asked why the growth of wages in the countryside was lagging behind that in the cities, the minister replied that this was primarily due to declining agricultural output in the republic.

The minister also said that the income of Estonian farmers varies from 7,000 to 37,000 roubles a year.

Town Refuses Registration for Banned Groups

OW1709185091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The REFAK news agency reports that the Executive Committee of the Town Council in Narva (north-eastern Estonia) has cancelled its decisions to register the charters of such local organisations as the Amalgamated Council of Work Collectives (OSTK) and the Internationalist Movement of the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] and has decided to abolish the local Law and Order League and the so-called workers' detachments.

OSTK and the Internationalist Movement were formed in the autumn of 1988 as a counterweight to the independence movement in Estonia and until last August had been a serious political power comprising people who wished Estonia to remain within the Soviet Union. On August 24, 1991, the Estonian Government banned these organisations as "supporters of the attempted coup d'etat".

Towns Prepare for December Council Elections

OW1709185191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] REFAK reports that in three towns in the North-East of Estonia, Narva, Kohtla-Jarve and Sillamae, preparations have begun for elections to the town councils, scheduled for December 20. The present councils have been deprived of their powers by decision of the Estonian Parliament for their "support of the attempted coup d'etat".

Representatives of local branches of the People's Front of Estonia, the Communist Party of Estonia, the Vaba

Eesti movement and the emergent Russian Democratic Movement are to hold a joint meeting in Kohtla-Jarve today to suggest candidates who would be willing to cooperate with the Estonian Government.

Latvia

Peters, Soviet Defense Minister Sign Protocol

LD1809011191 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Today in Moscow the Soviet defense minister, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, and the government representative of the Republic of Latvia, Janis Peters, signed a protocol providing for the formation of a joint mixed commission to assess the number and quality of Soviet military installations on the territory of the Republic of Latvia. The document also provides that no later than 1 January 1992 all soldiers called up from the Republic of Latvia in the ranks, as well as all officers [words indistinct] who submitted a report on returning to Latvia if they were called up for service from Latvia.

The protocol also provides for handing over to the Republic of Latvia the military commissariats, with lists of those newly called up and informed of their conscription as well as of pensioners. The Republic of Latvia will also be taking over military forestry. By 1 January 1992, it is anticipated that the political-military school in Riga will be dissolved. The protocol was signed on the basis of an agreement reached a week ago, when Ivars Godmanis met Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Gorbunovs Rejects Soviet Troop Withdrawal Plan

LD1709230991 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The Soviet Defense Ministry proposal to begin the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from the Baltics as late as the year 1994 is unacceptable to Latvia, Latvian President Mr. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, currently on a visit to the United States, has said in a newspaper interview.

According to Mr. Gorbunovs, the withdrawal should begin immediately, with technical details acceptable to both sides to be worked out by the processes on the way.

The permanent representative of the Latvian Government in Moscow Mr. Peters, and the Soviet Defense Minister Mr. Shaposhnikov have today signed a document in Moscow on the setting up of a joint interstate commission to discuss the Soviet Army withdrawal from Latvia. According to Mr. Peters, the commission is to first determine the number of Soviet military personnel and its location sites in Latvia.

Accord on Demobilization of Latvians Reached

LD1709201191 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Excerpt] All soldiers of Latvian nationality on active military service will be demobilized by 1 January. This was announced at a press conference held at the Supreme Council of Latvia by the prime minister of the republic, Ivars Godmanis, and the chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Defense and Internal Affairs, Talavs Jundzis, after talks at the USSR Ministry of Defense. By 1 January, too, all officers of Latvian nationality will be released from service at their own request. Agreement was reached on eliminating all the military training institutions on the territory of the republic. [passage omitted]

Program for Repatriation of Non-Latvians Reported

LD1709184491 Tallinn Estonian Radio in English 2030 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The Latvian Government immigration department has worked out a joint program with the Ministry for Finance to provide an economic assistance to those non-Latvians willing to repatriate to their native or ethnic republics.

The program envisages among other things a full compensation in free market prices for the flat a family leaves behind. The program is still to be approved by the government.

According to the assistant director of the immigration department, Mr. (Schulz), the number of non-Latvian inhabitants should be reduced to avoid a permanent conflict situation, like the one in Belfast or Beirut, originating here in Latvia.

The number of native population during the 50 years of Soviet rule has been reduced from 78 percent in 1938 to 52 today, due to heavy immigration from other republics of the Soviet Union.

Popular Front Proposes Compromise on Citizenship

LD1809022891 Riga Radio Riga International in English 16 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Latvian Popular Front has come up with a compromise proposal on how to quicker find a solution to the still unresolved Latvian Republic's citizenship problem. [passage omitted]

According to the Popular Front proposal, the present parliament of Latvia has no right of granting citizenship. It can be done only by a new democratically-elected Seimas, or the parliament of the Republic of Latvia, or by way of referendum.

But the present parliament has the right, according to the Latvian Popular Front, to widen the number of those eligible to vote in a new Seimas elections by determining

the census, the number of years one must have stayed in the country to have the right to vote.

Any such amendment, says the proposal, should be discussed by the inhabitants and later on (?any) complicated procedure to be voted on by the citizens of Latvia, in this case by those having lived in Latvia in year 1940 and their ancestors.

The Seimas elected after such procedures would then pass a decision on the granting of Latvia's citizenship. [passage omitted]

Rally in Riga Protests Citizenship Issue

LD1709214791 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Summary] Thousands of Riga citizens have gathered in Doma Square for a protest meeting organized by the committee of citizens against the so-called zero option on Latvian citizenship—granting it to all permanent residents. It is being addressed by various deputies.

'Zero Option' Protested

OW1809165491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1441 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Riga on Tuesday the Congress of Latvian Citizens held a meeting in protest against the Latvian parliament's acts on the issue of citizenship. The meeting gathered 2 to 3 thousand people.

Members of the Congress are those who were Latvian citizens before 1940 and their offspring.

Activists of the Congress opposed the so-called "zero option" under which citizenship will be granted to all those who reside in Latvia on a permanent basis, including people who arrived in Latvia after 1940.

Parliament Passes Amnesty for Military Crimes

OW1809112091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0945 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday the Latvian parliament passed a law on an amnesty to Latvians who committed military crimes.

The law will be sent to the parliaments of Soviet republics requesting them to release Latvian citizens convicted for military crimes.

The punishment for military crimes will be dropped for persons who have also committed other felonies.

On September 12, the Presidium of the Latvian parliament decided to release Latvian citizens sentenced for military cries and serving their term in the territory of the republic. The decision comes into force on October 1.

According to the legal office of the Latvian parliament, 89 Latvian citizens are now serving terms for military crimes, 35 of them for desertion.

Official Says Republic Not To Join Ruble Area

PM1809142791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Untitled report from PRAVDA, TASS, RIA, INTERFAX roundup under general headline: "In Brief"]

[Text] Latvia will not join the ruble area which is being set up by USSR sovereign republics. This would require that the republic reject the idea of its own currency. "This is unacceptable for us," Alfreds Berg-Bergmanis, deputy president of the Bank of Latvia, said.

Lithuania

Official Says Independence Progress Complete

OW1809165791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1441 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Wednesday at a briefing in Lithuania's parliament, the parliament's deputy chairman Bronislavas Kuzmitskas said that "the admittance of Baltic republics to the U.N. concluded Lithuania's progress toward independence". At its Tuesday's session the U.N. General Assembly officially recognized Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as independent states and full-fledged members of the world community.

The post of Lithuania's ambassador to the U.N. has been established, B.Kuzmitskas said. It was filled by Mr. Simutis, formerly Lithuania's consul in New York.

Polish Foreign Minister on Treatment of Poles

AU1809135591 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 12 Sep 91 p 1

[Statement made to RZECZPOSPOLITA by Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski in Moscow; date not given: "It Should Not Happen"]

[Text] Asked by RZECZPOSPOLITA to comment on what is happening in Lithuania regarding the Polish population, Minister Skubiszewski, who is attending the CSCE Conference in Moscow, said the following:

"What is happening there is decidedly wrong and should not be taking place. For example, the granting of citizenship to the inhabitants of a given land should not made dependent on swearing an oath of loyalty. It is necessary for Lithuanian legislation to be made to conform to international standards. Similarly, internal administrative matters, the personnel composition of organs, and the institution of steps of one kind or another regarding

persons who supported the coup are matters that lie within Lithuania's competence, and that is something we will not interfere with. On the other hand, it has to be borne in mind that everything should take place in accordance with the law, and that the dissolution of administrations or local government organs was in breach of Lithuanian legislation. A state cannot begin to function normally in the international arena by violating fundamental provisions of its own laws. I do not intend to go into Lithuania's internal affairs, and the Polish Government will not interfere in these matters, but we believe that depriving Poles of representatives bodies of one kind or another makes them powerless in defending their interests. The Poles in Lithuania need to be able to defend their interests. That is why I made the concrete proposal that the Lithuanian authorities should suspend the implementation of their decisions. Police operations and the appointment of commissars cannot lead to anything good."

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Poland

LD1709084591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The following statement was made to ELTA by Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas: There have been recent press reports which, while citing the Polish Foreign Ministry, attempt to create an impression of a worsening of relations between Lithuania and Poland.

[Begin Saudargas recording] On 10 and 11 September I met with Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski in Moscow in the CSCE lobby and we we exchanged opinions on issues of concern to us. Our relations are traditionally cordial and friendly.

By the way, because of the unplanned nature of my visit to the United Nations I asked Minister Skubiszewski if it would be possible to postpone the date of his visit to Vilnius. Mr Skubiszewski kindly agreed to this.

A new date for the visit is now being arranged. The later date will make it possible to do some more work on the text of the Lithuanian-Polish Declaration which is due to be signed. We expect a constructive stance from the Polish side. [end recording]

Official Denies Problems With Talks

OW1709180791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a briefing in the Lithuanian parliament today, the General Director of the Consular Department of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Linas Kucinskas, refuted the reports which had recently appeared in Poland to the effect that Lithuania had cut short its negotiations with that country.

He said that the negotiations had simply been suspended, because the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Algirdas Saudargas, had left for New York to take part in the UN General Assembly, something which had not been planned in advance.

Mr. Kucinskas quoted Mr. Saudargas as saying in Warsaw on his way to New York: "Our mutual relations are traditionally sincere and friendly." According to Mr. Kucinskas, Mr. Saudargas believes that, before the negotiations are resumed, both sides will be able to complete their vork on the text of the joint Lithuanian-Polish declaration which is to be signed very shortly.

Mr. Kucinskas also said that yesterday the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry had received an invitation from Poland to come to Warsaw to continue negotiations on these matters.

Talks 'Progressing With Difficulty'

LD1709210591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Algirds Usas]

[Excerpts] Press representative Audrius Azubalis started the briefing at the Supreme Council with visits. [passage omitted] The briefing was attended by Linas Kucinskas, director of the consular department of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. He described the state of Lithuanian-Polish relations, stressing that the negotiations have not been broken off, as stated in the press and in radio and television broadcasts, but have been postponed because of an unexpected visit by Algirdas Saudargas to New York. Linas Kucinskas admitted that the negotiations are progressing with difficulty. In preparing the joint declaration, the Polish stand is very firm. Linas Kucinskas said they proposed five points, three of which concern Lithuania's internal affairs. For instance, the Polish side demands that Lithuania not change its administrative divisions and set up a university. Many issues must be solved purely on a parity basis but, in the opinion of Linas Kucinskas, Poland is psychologically not yet ready for equivalent relations. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor Says Salvation Committee Lists Found

OW1709130591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1020 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief prosecutor of the Crime Investigation Department of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Lithuania, Juozas Gaudutis, confirmed in an interview he gave to the RESPUBLIKA newspaper that lists had been found of members of the National Salvation Committee active during the January events in Lithuania.

He refused to give any names, however. The information had to be checked, he said, for "a mistake could be detrimental to a concrete individual."

According to Mr. Gaudutis, the documents that have been found make it clear that the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] branch acted on the instructions of the Communist Party, and the information sent to Moscow by the Lithuanian branch of the KGB was also instrumental.

When asked if Mikhail Gorbachev had been aware of the preparations for the January events in Lithuania, Mr. Gaudutis promised to answer the question after Vladimir Kryuchkov and Dmitriy Yazov had been interrogated.

Transfer of Draft Centers Complete by 21 Oct

OW1709224891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview to a newspaper named "RESPUBLIKA", Mr. Algimantas Visockas, former military commissar of Lithuania (the officer responsible for the call-up of conscripts in all of the republic) said that a commission from the Baltic Military District will arrive in Vilnius as early as this week to join the state commission of the Lithuanian Republic to address the issue of handling military commissariats (call-up centres) to Lithuania. He also said that an order had already been received that the transfer of the centres to Lithuanian authorities be completed by October 21. Civilians employed by the centres will be dismissed, while officers will continue their service on new assignments.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Cancels Meetings Due to 'Health Problems'

AU1809132291 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, Sept 18 (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin cancelled two meetings with Russian MPs [Member of Parliament] on Wednesday because of health problems, a close advisor to Yeltsin told the news agency INTERFAX. Yeltsin aide Gennadiy Burbulis told INTERFAX that Yeltsin's state of health "had got worse" but did not say what the problem was.

Yeltsin has suffered from heart problems since 1988.

Burbulis said he had told the Russian parliamentarians that a meeting they should have had with Yeltsin at the White House (the seat of the Russian parliament) at 11:00 a.m. (0800 GMT) could not go ahead because of a worsening of the president's state of health.

Talks scheduled with the members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Russia at 3:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) were also called off until further notice.

The two meetings were to plan for the session of the Supreme Soviet of Russia which opens in Moscow on Thursday.

INTERFAX indicated that it was possible that Yeltsin's planned address at the opening session could also be cancelled.

Suffers 'Minor Heart Attack'

LD1809144591 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—Boris Yeltsin is "slightly ill," acting chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov told TASS.

This evening Khasbulatov plans to visit the Russian president and find out whether he will address the opening of the Russian parliament's session tomorrow.

Sources at the Russian president staff told TASS that Boris Yeltsin has suffered "a minor heart attack." However, physicians said there is nothing serious. He will possibly get down to work tomorrow.

Hospitalized With 'Coronary Deficiency'

OW1809145491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX's correspondent in the Russian parliament reports the RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin was taken to hospital with coronary deficiency on Wednesday morning. Officials from the presidential staff said Mr. Yeltsin would be unlikely to address the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet session opening Thursday.

Yeltsin To Mediate in Nagorno-Karabakh Dispute

LD1709170991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1502 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—Boris Yeltsin, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president, will make a trip to Nagorno-Karabakh in the next few days, reported RSFSR State Council Chairman Gennadiy Burbulis today at a meeting with people's deputies.

As is known, the situation remains extremely tense in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO], which is mainly populated with Armenians and is part of Azerbaijan. A month ago, during a meeting in Alma-Ata, RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev made an appeal to Mikhail Gorbachev in which they expressed the conviction that an end should be put to the bloody feud between the Armenian and the Azerbaijani peoples. For this purpose they agreed to become mediators in the dialogue between the Azerbaijani and Armenian sides.

It is assumed that Boris Yeltsin will fly to Nagorno-Karabakh after his address on 19 September at the opening of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session.

Yeltsin Appoints Aide to Security Council

PM1609162991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By decree of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president, Yuriy Vladimirovich Skokov has been appointed state councillor of the RSFSR and secretary of the RSFSR president's commission on the elaboration of proposals on the status, structure, and procedure of activity of the RSFSR Security Council. The same decree releases him from his duties as RSFSR state councillor and secretary of the RSFSR president's council on the affairs of the federation and territories.

Decree Establishes Economic Expert Committee

LD1709173591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree setting up an expert group to analyze and forecast the socioeconomic situation promptly and sufficiently. The decree's appendix says that the experts, while providing the Russian president with analysis and information, will study the business information reaching him, analyze prospective economic reform proposals, and help prepare legislative acts of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and

the president's draft decrees concerning socioeconomic problems. (Igor Nit), a doctor of economic sciences and professor, heads the five-person group. (Nit) was Boris Yeltsin's economic adviser when he was RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman.

Yeltsin Order on Reorganizing Fuel Complex Cited

PM1709161791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Will Russia Provide Warmth?"]

[Text] In view of the crisis situation in the fuel and power complex as winter appoaches, B. Yeltsin has orded the adoption of emergency measures to improve the management of this vitally important structure on Russian territory.

The activites of the former Union Ministry of the Petroleum and Gas Industry, Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry (the nuclear power management part), and Ministry of Power and Electrification, and the "Gazprom" and "Neftegazstroy" concerns have been suspended. The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Ministry of Fuel and Power, henceforth the state body for the management of the republic's fuel and power complex, takes over all enterprises and organizations hitherto subordinate to the aforementioned departments. Buildings in the capital housing the apparatus of the former Union ministries and concerns are also transferred to it.

The officials of these departments will continue carrying out their official duties for the time being. But the RSFSR Ministry of Fuel and Power has been instructed to submit proposals on a new management structure and on finding jobs for central apparatus workers.

Yeltsin's order also points out the need to ensure power supplies for other Union republics in accordance with previous agreements.

Legal Adviser Assesses Latest Yeltsin Decrees

OW1709144891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the request of IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, Sergey Shakhrai, the Russian Federation's legal adviser, has assessed the latest decrees of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin which met with controversial reaction among Russian MPs [Member of Parliament].

According to S. Shakhrai, these decrees belong to 3 categories.

The first category includes "important political decrees of complex nature, such as the decree on disbanding party cells". Though some MPs believe that these decrees "contain infringements on legislative power prerogatives", from the legal viewpoint they are well substantiated, said S. Shakhrai.

The second category of presidential decrees includes the ones that contain errors, said the Russian Federation's legal adviser.

The third category includes decrees that were adopted "in contravention of all legal and ethical norms, and that bypassed the juridical service of Russia's president". According to S. Shakhrai, "Such decrees were initiated as a rule either by Russia's Council of Ministers, or by the head of the president's staff Petrov, or by the executive director Tretiakov".

According to Shakhrai, the documents that fall under the third category include the decree on the role of the Council of Ministers in the system of executive power which "legitimatized juridical arbitrariness and full dictate of the apparatus over the president and over the Council of Ministers". The legal adviser said that he intends to announce this at a session of Russia's parliament.

Silayev Announces Resignation as Prime Minister

AU1809121491 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, Sept 18 (AFP)—Ivan Silayev announced Wednesday his resignation as Russian prime minister to devote himself full time to his job as interim Soviet premier, the Russian RIA News Agency said here.

Silayev told journalists he was resigning at the request of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and the presidents of other republics who met Monday as members of the State Council, the temporary collective body governing the Soviet Union.

"I could come up with no argument against what they wanted," said Silayev.

Following the abortive coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Silayev was named chairman of the provisional executive committee for the Soviet economy which is charged with supervising the Soviet Government.

The Russian parliament was expected to choose Thursday a new prime minister.

Russian Supreme Soviet To Convene 19 Sep

70 Items Listed on Agenda

LD1809103191 Moscow All-Union Radio First First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will begin tomorrow [19 Sep] in Moscow. Seventy

items of business are on the agenda. The session will continue, with brief intermissions, right up to the new year.

Economic Laws To Be Considered

LD1709144691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1136 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Petr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (TASS)—At the session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, which opens on 19 September, a package of draft laws will be considered that are called upon to reform the republic's economy. Deputies will also hear a report on the state of the budget and forecasts on its implementation. This is what was reported by Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the commission of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet for the budget, plans, taxes, and prices.

"The state of the budget of the Russian Federation is extremely serious. Its income section today comprised R135,000 million; the deficit exceeded R15,000 million. The reason is the general fall in production and a significant reduction in income from export."

"Moreover," Pochinok stressed, "the former USSR prime minister initiated such a spiral of inflation that the need has arisen to allocate significant funds for social needs. After all, tens of millions of people have found themselves below the poverty line since 2 April."

At the forthcoming session, around 30 draft laws will be presented to deputies, aimed at stimulating entrepreneurial activity and increasing income to the republic's budget through new taxation legislation and the liberalization of prices.

Presidium Holds Closed Session on S. Ossetia

OW1709180191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, on Monday, the closed session of the Presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet discussed the recent appeal of the South Ossetian leaders to the Russian Federation's parliament for having this former autonomous region of Georgia joined to the Russian Federation.

Chairman of the Council of the Republics of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Vladimir Isakov, told IF that "the appeal of South Ossetia was thoroughly studied" and that agreement was reached to continue this work within the framework of bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia, with due account taken of South Ossetia's interests.

Mr. Isakov said that currently a treaty between the Russian Federation and Georgia was being drafted. This treaty, he said, will undoubtedly take into account the interests of South Ossetia. Mr. Isakov also stressed that the situation was quite serious and that the position of the Russian Federation must be carefully weighed-out.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits Dnestr Region

LD1809025391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet delegation, headed by Deputy Sergey Krasavchenko, spent all Monday in the Dnestr Region. At a meeting of Russian deputies with the inhabitants of Tiraspol, the women representatives of the Women's Committee picketing the railway tracks stated that they are determined to continue picketing until their demands have been fully met, and town soviet Deputy Galina Andreyeva called on her female friends to arm themselves.

An appeal to the Russian parliament was adopted at the meeting for them to act as mediators in the Dnestr Region's dispute with Kishinev, and also in the liberation of a number of people's deputies of the autonomous republic, who were arrested on the charge of supporting the 19-21 August coup d'etat. The appeal also says that it is necessary to open an RSFSR mission in Tiraspol for the protection of the Russian-speaking population's interests.

Afterwards, the Russian deputies visited the military units billeted in the Dnestr left bank area. According to the head of the press center of the Dnestr Region Supreme Soviet, Valeriy Letskay, virtually none of the garrisons of the left bank area have any intention of obeying Kishinev and will not leave the Dnestr Region, even in the event of an order being given for the Soviet Army to withdraw from Moldova.

At a meeting with deputies of the Bendery town soviet, Sergey Krasavchenko stated that in the situation which has arisen, Russia's stance supports the earliest possible ratification of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Moldova. According to him, only after this will Russia be able to effectively defend the interests of the Russian-speaking population in Moldova. Krasavchenko proposed that a meeting between representatives of the Dnestr Region and Moldova be organized in Kishinev, with the safety of the delegation from the Dnestr Region guaranteed. On Tuesday the RSFSR Supreme Soviet delegation intend to meet with the arrested leaders of the Dnestr Region.

Constitution Commission Debates New Constitution

LD1709155691 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The Russian Federation's new constitution is being debated, but some of its provisions are already in operation, Oleg Rumyantsev, secretary of the Russian Federation's Constitutional Commission, said today. Addressing a regular meeting of the Constitutional Commission, he emphasised that the text of the draft new Russian constitution has served as the basis for the declaration of human rights and liberties adopted by the extraordinary Congress of the USSR People's Deputies.

A memorandum to the draft constitution circulated among members of the Constitutional Commission says that in contrast to the present constitution of the Russian Federation which proclaims the inhuman thesis of the "class nature" of rights and liberties and their subordination to the purposes of the state, the draft constitution is based on the philosophy of natural law recognised in all civilised countries.

The memorandum says the provisions in the section on human rights have been coordinated with the universal declaration of human rights and all international covenants and treaties ratified by the USSR.

The list of rights and liberties has been considerably expanded. The constitution for the first time registers the right to life, the right to travel from the Russian Federation and back, the right to decide one's nationality, create political parties, the right to economic freedom and property.

The draft constitution emphasises guarantees of rights and liberties by the state. They include judicial protection against violation of rights and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

The novel feature is the proposal to institute the post of an authorised official of the Russian Federation for human rights, who will be supreme and independent human rights protector with broad powers and will be accountable only to parliament. The memorandum says the adoption of the new constitution will for the first time open to Russia the opportunity to join the world community as a fully fledged member.

According to the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Council Presidium adopted on Monday, the draft new constitution will be discussed in parliamentary committees and commissions. Then it will be submitted for the consideration of the fifth extraordinary congress of the Russian Federation people's deputies which is expected to open on October 28.

Prosecutor General Comments on Coup Investigation

OW1709142791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov has said that preliminary investigations connected with the August coup should be concluded within 3 months. However, it's impossible to say when the trial of those who launched the coup will begin, since their lawyers can take as much time as they need to study the relevant materials.

According to medics, the prosecutor general told newsmen that Anatoliy Lukyanov, who is now in the hospital, is in good health to all intents and purposes. However, it was decided not to transfer him back to the detention center till his medical examination is concluded. So far, said V. Stepankov, four former high-ranking officials from the USSR KGB are under arrest. Legal proceedings have not been instituted yet against the crew of the armoured vehicle No. 536 through whose fault defenders of Russia's parliament died in the small hours of August 21. According to Russia's prosecutor general, the prosecution has not determined yet that their actions were aimed at causing deaths.

Deputy Tarasov Resigns, To Remain Abroad

LD1709211191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Artem Tarasov, one of the pioneers of free business activities in the Soviet Union and the subject of so many rumors, has now decided to live abroad. In a letter to Yeltsin, he asks not to be regarded any longer as a people's deputy of Russia. Tarasov writes that he will not return to visit as long as Gorbachev remains president. The businessman, so quick to take offense, nonetheless donated $9 million to Russia. In fact, this money does not exist, as it has been sequestred by investigative bodies. Some Western papers note that Artem Tarasov's debt to the Russian government is $48 million; therefore, it is natural for him to remain abroad.

Khasbulatov Stresses Economic Union of Republics

LD1709091991 Moscow TASS in English 0928 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Bezbrezhnyy]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—"Russia and the Russian leadership are interested in saving the Union," acting Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov told TASS.

"We have exerted maximum efforts during the extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR to make it adopt a law on provisional organs of power and administration, tried to save the Supreme Soviet, even if not in its previous form," he noted. "We had a meeting at our 'White House' with USSR deputies, elected from Russia, and we persuaded them to vote for the Union."

"The Ukrainian or Latvian borders with Russia do not pass through the Kremlin," Khasbulatov said. "All the republics are located on Russia's perimeter. This is why

we are interested in promoting our economic ties and saving our political relations. Last year, when our '500-Day' was torpedoed, we moved to establish an economic union. But this idea was also thwarted and a whole year was wasted on futile disputes. Today, it seems to me, the economic union idea is getting the upper hand. I want the USSR Supreme Soviet very much to confirm at long last its adherence to this idea."

Silayev Answers Questions on 'Plus 11' Program

LD1409230191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0915 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Phone-in program with with Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Council of Ministers, answering viewers' questions; from the "Plus 11" program moderated by Irina Yuryevna Lapina—live]

[Text] [Lapina] Greetings, we are live on the air. Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers, will be talking to you. Ivan Stepanovich, in our previous television meetings with the viewers, you stressed that you are meeting the people of Russia as the head of the government of Russia.

[Silayev] Yes, thank you. It is precisely in that role that I have come here today and I would like to take the initiative from you, Irina Yuryevna, and start the program myself, if I may.

[Lapina] Please, go ahead.

[Silayev] I know, esteemed viewers, esteemed citizens, including the people of Russia, the things that are worrying you today. Naturally, these include the oncoming winter, the talk about hunger; will there be bread, potatoes, sugar, and so on, or not?

First of all, I would like to say that, of course, winter will come, but there are no grounds to talk about hunger. Here I would like to address first of all those citizens who at present have quite energetically engaged in cultivating their kitchen gardens and other subsidiary occupations. We have looked at these and calculated, and it seems that this year of the total oif potatoes planted, 70 percent is accounted for by individual plots. Thus the decisive role as to whether or not there will be any potatoes will be played by the citizens.

We know that the harvest is not bad, although the situation is complicated. We see that there is rain again. But according to our calculations, the situation with potatoes will be better. I think that that it is necessary to appeal to, and I am appealing, to the executive committees of the local soviets: the townspeople are gathering in the harvest on their kitchen gardens down to the very last potato, and they must be stored somewhere. Consequently it is necessary to create every possibility, to give permission so that it is possible to build some sort of shed, some sort of outer building—ignoring architecture or anything else; that will be a matter for the future—so that the harvest can be kept properly and can be used on the housewife's table.

I would like to say that this year the potato harvest is proceeding in a more organized manner. In the first place, this is because the Army is working in a different way. In practice, we are trying not to use the town dwellers, not to take them away from their main work and study, from the machine tools, from the engineering laboratories. Very efficient work is being done by the soldiers and servicemen. It must be said that a major role is being played here by the new defense minister, Comrade Shaposhnikov, so that in this regard everything will be fine.

By the way, having worked out that the main share, the lion's share of the potatoes, are accounted for by private farms, by individual kitchen gardens, we are undertaking measures to ensure that next year the individual sector will be given proper help primarily in order to further increase this figure, so that perhaps it will be not 70, but 80 percent.

We are paying attention to fertilizers and to modern seed which gives twice the yield—in general, to everything that is needed by the owner of private kitchen gardens. We are creating the necessary opportunities. Therefore we think if one also includes vegetables—cabbage, carrots, sugar beet—quite a lot of this has been planted this year—then I think that this year the good housewife will have quite a full table.

Well, naturally, regarding the question of grain, we are undertaking measures. In particular, the people of Russia know what these are. However, I would like to say to our peasants, to the collective and state farms, to private farmers, to remind them that the Russian Government has for the first time introduced the following principle: Previously, we accepted grain for storage and charged the peasants for this storage; this year we are doing everything the other way round. We accept grain for storage and if this grain is kept for six months, we pay ten percent of the grain in addition to what was laid in; just like in a savings bank. So we invite you, our esteemed peasants in the Russian countryside, to our savings bank, to our storage. In return for the grain you put in you will receive an addition of ten percent, just as for money in a savings bank.

We are adopting a number of other measures. Nonetheless, in mobilizing all our forces of the countryside, the town, and the Army, we will be obliged to purchase some things, including grain—and in particular, this grain is not so much food grain but rather grain for feeding cattle. This year we have altered the type of grain we buy. In the first place we are buying maize, soy meal. All of this not easy. There are difficulties with credits. Not everyone is being helpful to us. Nonetheless I—and not only as chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, but also as chairman of the Operational Committee for the country—can state that all measures will be taken, and

naturally the population will live in excellent conditions as far as foodstuffs are concerned.

[Lapina] Thank you. Ivan Stepanovich, the first question has been evinced by your formula for an economic union—that the possibility for economic cooperation set out in it will attract the countries of Eastern Europe to cooperate. Well, Ivan Stepanovich, is this possibility realistic, and in what fundamental way will this cooperation differ from cooperation within the framework of the collapsed Council for Mutual Economic Aid?

[Silayev] Well, first of all, esteemed Manukhin—I do not have his first name and patronymic here—one must bear in mind what we are proposing. What sort of program of economic cooperation it is will be reported in particular this Monday to the USSR State Council, and this program proposes the participation of any state—not only the members of the former USSR, but indeed of the Eastern [European] countries. It will be advantageous; it will be attractive for any which wishes to cooperate with us. All of this will be set out in this program.

Some Western reporters rather inaccurately reported what I said when I had a meeting with Mr. Balcerowicz, Polish minister of economy and minister of finance. I have in mind that—my opinion is that our program of economic cooperation will be of interest not only to us, the members of the Union, but also to those states which are already independent. At any rate, it will be economically advantageous to participate in this union.

[Lapina] All the same, the analogy is evidently not with CEMA, but with the EC.

[Silayev] Yes, undoubtedly. CEMA has already disappeared into the past, and it will not return again now. Indeed the fundamental approaches we have set out—and this will be discussed on Monday—contain the principles of free economic cooperation. It will not be obligatory for them all to have the same form. Those who wish to participate should see it as in their interest in any form—this may be some sort of associate form or federation. Many republics are already talking about a confederation. This will not be of importance. If it is in their interest—and we are trying to propose this economic union so that it will be—then naturally they will participate in it on the principles of economic interest. We are presenting a program which is not politicized. It is purely economic cooperation, and we are not just hoping, but are sure that the participants in the former Union will participate in it actively, and I think that it will be of interest to our former CEMA partners—but the principles are those of the EC.

[Lapina] While we have been giving a reply, a question has come in—or, I should say, a reaction. Kulbatskiy from Moscow writes: We will survive the winter, but won't the dollar get us in its clutches? We can do for ourselves what they are proposing to us. This is, rather, a sort of reaction.

[Silayev] Well, this anxiety is heard quite often. First of all, I would like to say that it is a matter of very small quantities. If we are short of something, then this is just a matter of a few percent—well, up to, say, fifteen percent. Of course the main resources, the main food stocks, are being created within the Union. But at the same time we must not reject what is created in the world on the principles of economic community.

Why cannot means which are idle today be used? They are not used. They do not have an application. This is the case in many Western countries. Therefore it is profitable to them as well, as it is also profitable to us. Therefore don't worry, Comrade Kulbatskiy —we are not so eccentric as to sell our own resources, resources of the Union and of Russia. We understand economic cooperation, and we will cooperate on a basis profitable to us.

[Lapina] It seems there was a similar question during the last program. You did not have time to answer it. Therefore, sorting out the messages, I have put it on top of the pile. When will the privatization of housing start in Moscow, and in what form? Who will establish prices? In principle, many are worried by the prices, as the media published starting prices for housing as 500,000 rubles [R], R800,000, and even R1.5 million. But in my opinion the privatization of housing and cost do not have any relation to each other—these are two diffirent things, different points of view.

[Silayev] First of all, it is necessary to get well acquainted, in particular, with the law on privatization of housing adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Everything is explained in full detail there. The privatization itself is a function of local authorities, but the legislative foundation is fully expressed in our laws. In the first place, part of housing, according to calculated norms—this is all known—will be given free. In the second place, we issue the so-called nominal investments when every citizen, a child or a pensioner, on the whole all 150 million citizens of Russia—in this particular case, I mean—will be given appropriate start shares, which will cost every person approximately R10,000. This will be done in order that every citizen, having this start money, could pay for the floor space which is above the approved norms. So this principle has been established, and we think it will not be burdensome—also including the layer of population with low incomes. Those wild figures which were quoted here are speculative figures, and it is not worth being oriented by them. I would like to ask the esteemed correspondents to carefully read the Russian laws on the privatization of housing. This is excluded there.

It is another matter that we plan that from next year some housing should be built corresponding to a higher level of comfort and convenience, and will be destined for the market. But in the Russian Government's program next year we are investing significant funds to build housing for everyone who cannot buy housing, for those who have already been waiting in lines for many years,

with large families, in the hope of having the most elementary accomodation. State housing will be constructed for them.

[Lapina] Ivan Stepanovich, here is another very pointed question. Potapov from Moscow asks: What measures are being taken by the government to help refugees from the Russian-speaking population? It is difficult to agree with the view you often express that economic issues help to solve all other problems—both political and social ones. At the same time, would it not be naive to think that there will no refugees at all?

[Silayev] Here there are issues which are so finely balanced that at any time a conflict could arise from nothing. Now there are difficulties in the northern Caucasus region, where they have started dividing up the land of the farmers, not the peasants, and interethnic problems have arisen—but thankfully, as they say, this is all now being resolved there peacefully, through talks, so let us hope that it will all turn out well. Nevertheless, there is a place for this.

Recently, a fairly large group of Russians arrived in North Ossetia—almost 50,000 people. We will not abandon them in their misfortune. We are concerned about them, and the leaders of North Ossetia will arrive here tomorrow. We will once again examine their problems, but in principle, in the first place, we have a specific program to support those who are forced to come to us. We have made provisions for funds in our budgetary plans. They will be increased next year. We are concerned with finding them accomodation and work. We are setting up—there are funds here for those who are forced to leave their homes.

Besides this, if we were to talk about those republics—in particular the Baltic republics or Moldova—in our treaties with them we have laid down the expenses which are to be borne by the territories from which Russian citizens—let us say in this case—have to come. So here, on the level of political relations and economic relations, we are carrying out our work, and our citizens who are forced to leave their housing, their shelter, and come to us will naturally be protected and supported by us.

[Lapina] Ivan Stepanovich, the following is a question from Vladikavkaz. Tamara Kartuyeva asks: What is your attitude to the merging of two ministries: the Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Health? What are the aims?

[Silayev] I regard this positively because I initiated it. It was done on my initiative. Moreover, getting ready to work under market conditions, we have analyzed the experience of practically all the countries in Europe, and America and Japan. We saw that the experience, the practical activities of one or another state, large or small, under the conditions of a transition to market relations, under market conditions, leads to this: Questions connected with social security are indissolubly connected with health care. In particular there are also questions connected with the medical treatment of elderly people, in old people's homes, and so on. On the other hand social questions are also resolved by the Ministry of Labor and Employment. In particular, issues connected with the loss of capacity for work due to mutilation, injury at work—this is closer to these structures. Therefore taking into account the experience of the West, and approaching our concrete structures, services, and subdivisions to the individual, the person, and the socially insecure, has pushed us to it. Now the question of what specialists we find for these two structures, which were made out of three, is very important, and we are trying to ensure that these are professionals. It will be better, not worse.

[Lapina] Natalia Mikhaylenko from Murmansk asks: I am very interested in foodstuff supplies to the North. I would like to have an explanation on the subject, and also on the subject of establishing prices here in the North.

[Silayev] I think that citizens know, and Natalia Mikhaylenko does—she did not give her middle name—I am explaining that, first of all, the North is Russian territory—and therefore we hold full responsibility for supplying our northern regions. In the so-called tax in kind and in the state order, the tax in kind amounting to 40 percent of the received crop is sent to the northern territories and to canteens and hostels, to kindergartens and schools, and so on. That is, we order for a special purpose, and it must be said that the fulfillment of the tax in kind goes well in supplying our northern cities and regions with necessary products, including potatoes.

We understand that the navigation season here is very tight, and I cannot say that the work from the organizational point of view is any worse. I would even have grounds to say that things are actually better organized. We are doing everything to ensure that there are sufficient of the necessary foodstuffs and food products in our northern regions.

[Lapina] I would like to thank you especially for touching on an important question at the start of the program—the question of winter, and also the question of the storage of grain, potatoes, vegetables, and so on. Notes are already coming in about this: In Moscow there are many basements. Would it not be appropriate to hand over these basements to apartment block committees or block representatives to organize vegetable stores for each family in these basements? But only vegetables. I mean that often these basements are given over to some other interested parties. But would it not be better to give them over to this purpose? All the more so as you, Comrade Silayev, are promising a difficult year next year. Indeed, town dwellers do not have any place to store vegetables.

[Silayev] First of all I did not say, and I have no grounds to say, that next year will be harder. I said it will not be easy, but I do not think that it will be harder. I am, however, in full agreement with you, Aleksandr Timofeyevich. Your proposal is quite right. It is necessary to

use not only small sheds or adapted boxes or containers, but basements, too. Everything that can be directed to preserving the harvested potatoes, carrots, and sugar beets from gardens and individual kitchen gardens should be adapted for use, and I hope that not only the Moscow mayor's office, but also the executive committees of other cities, will take this into account. This must be done without fail. We support this.

[Lapina] Ivan Stepanovich Kiriyanov from Rostov na Donu asks: Yesterday "Vesti" broadcast a television report about the destruction of grain. What measures are now being taken by the government against economic sabotage?

[Silayev] Well, my namesake Ivan Stepanovich, I am pleased to greet you. Unfortunately, I did not see what was in that clip, but I will look into it and quickly sort it out.

[Lapina] Ivan Stepanovich, you may recall that in our previous programs there have been many questions about the unrestrained rise in prices; and in some very harsh forms. There were many attacks on entrepeneurs and members of cooperatives. Today a question has come in to us which is rather from the opposite viewpoint. Gibridinova from Moscow asks: Please explain how one can combine market relations with Yeltsin's decree about ceilings on prices in Moscow. Well, you have the cards in your hand, you are our recognized and authoritative marketeer—but such a decree was, indeed, issued. I recall that it is called: "On the Powers of the Bodies of Executive Power in Moscow"—is that not so?

[Silayev] Yes, I think that is so, although it is a bit indirect. That decree contains several provisions. It aroused a very serious and negative reaction and disturbed entrepreneurial structures, and here I think that some of the aspects of this decree should be refined.

[Lapina] In this decree, the city's mayor really has been given special powers to set prices.

[Silayev] On the whole, granting a large degree of independence to towns and municipalities is also our policy, our program, but there are certain spheres which directly relate to legal principles—even more so because we are carrying out what we call radical economic reform. Certain articles in this decree demand amplification, for they really could have a negative effect on the work of our entrepeneurial structures, and our aim is to ultimately see lower prices, for the more proposals there will be, naturally, the more prices will be lowered. In this situation I would tell our entrepeneurs in Russia not to get nervous—and even more so I would tell them not to threaten Moscow with all the entrepeneurs leaving, turning Moscow into a desert. I think that intention is too emotional. Personally I intend to see Boris Nikolayevich in the next few days—I have only just gotten to the bottom of these matters—and I am going in with the proposal that a number of these things be removed or reexamined.

[Lapina] I also have a series of notes on small business. When will the laws which hinder entrepeneurial activity and the transition to the market economy be abolished? Is the government intending to adopt any sort of program to assist small business, particularly regarding difficult long-term credits and the lifting of taxes on....

[Silayev, interrupting] These questions are already very specific. I do not want to answer on the level of taxes, and so on. I consider that all of us—both the bodies of other republics, and of Russia in particular—should establish conditions more conducive to entrepeneurial activity. We say that every citizen, in Russia in particular, should have the opportunity to start up in business. One can only go into business first with the support of the state, and also if conditions are favorable for the funds invested to start producing a profit. For this a reexamination of a number of articles and restrictions which are currently in operation is essential.

In the last few days we met Russian entrepeneurs and reached agreement with them. In the next few days they are to give us a list of the laws, decrees, and resolutions which today hamper them working as normal entrepeneurs. And on the other hand, they are to hand us proposals about what else needs to be introduced at legislative level to improve their conditions of work, so that the main aim of producing goods, increasing the production of consumer goods, can be achieved. We are going to introduce particularly favorable conditions in this direction so that this will start to take effect.

I do not doubt that in this short time, literally in a couple of weeks, we will prepare all this, making it more precise where necessary, and perhaps table new laws, at the session of the Supreme Soviet which begins on the 19th. Yesterday, by the way, at the session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, we examined the first stage of the land reform, concerning smallholdings. We came to the connclusion first that the idea has been taken up, the reform has begun; but the restrictions on the one hand, and on the other hand the difficulties that still exist, from the formulation to the normal functioning for smallholders—they don't allow wide scope. And so—at the session we probably will not have time, but at the next congress, which will take place at the end of October, we will table a package of new bills which will not only not continue the dynamics which today seem impressive—all the same it is only 30,000 peasant farms—but which will place state aid and state support of that peasant movement on a very solid foundation. We will be submitting those bills to the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

[Lapina] A question from Leningrad—now St. Petersburg: Will women retire at 50, in view of the increase in unemployment?

[Silayev] Well, that's a concrete question. You know that today we cannot become preoccupied with all kinds of new social benefits of a general nature. We have to concentrate our resources on supporting those who are

most [as heard] provided for socially, namely those who are unable to work, invalids, the elderly, children, and families at a low level. That is where the resources must go, of course. But to continue taking all sorts of global social measures, such as shortening the working week, reducing working hours, or increasing state leave—the country is not now ready for that. We have to get onto our feet economically, before we make a start with further social measures.

[Lapina] A question from Smolensk, from Kuvagina. Article 21 of the Declaration of Human Rights proclaims the right to freedom of movement, and freedom to choose where to live. How will that right be realized in view of the housing shortage and the rigor in residence permits, and is it not time to do away with these altogether? Well, the declaration is a fine document, but the author of the note has hit the nail on the head, because not only is Article 21 in general somewhat remote from reality... well, and as far as this specific question is concerned, I associate myself with the writer of the note, because the residence permit system is really serfdom, is it not?

[Silayev] Let us both agree. I, too, agree with it, but incidentally, it is also particularly necessary under the conditions of market relations. When unemployment arrives—and unfortunately, this will happen—the population will have to be on the move; it will have to migrate, and naturally registration belongs here to the kind of means that used to be employed before, and there is no doubt that it ought to be repealed.

[Lapina] But, if it is to be repealed, what is then to be done with housing?

[Silayev] At the same time, however, and given our current housing shortage, we cannot provide the market with this housing. That is precisely why we are now discussing the first stage of the privatization of housing, selling it and transferring it to private ownership, and we are also discussing a housing market which is a part of our program. As soon as it is possible for us to offer housing to people who are sufficiently well off, or perhaps on the basis of public subsidies of one kind or another—as soon as we have succeeded in making housing available on the market—we will be able to say that the time has come to repeal the registration and the passport system, and to make freedom of movement available to people, not just within the country, but also outside its borders. We have already made this freedom of movement available to people to go abroad—but not yet within the country, unfortunately.

[Lapina] And of course questions have also arisen here about prices—who will set these prices? In the meantime, Article 21 appears to be for millionaires here, is that not so?

[Silayev] Yes, it is for the future, I would say.

[Lapina] So, Boris Vasiliyevich Shestopalov asks—this is a question about the USSR Academy of Sciences: Will it be transferred to Russian jurisdiction, and generally speaking what will be the fate of the USSR Academy of Sciences from the point of view of the Russian leadership, and the financing of basic research?

[Silayev] This question—from the point of view of science, and from the point of view of financing fundamental research—has very often been asked during recent times, and is well grounded. The desire of some, I would not say very farsighted, financiers is very great. If sources of reduction in expenditure need to be found, then they take aim at science, without fail. I would say that only pygmies could act in this way, small men who cannot perceive their fatherland in the not so distant future. My position—I will put it forward; I know that it is also the position of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, and I think that we should not forget this on a Union scale—is that fundamental research and its achievements, those already existing and the search for new solutions, new discoveries, should be financed under any conditions, either of poverty or affluence. It represents our future, and the people's well being, in the final analysis.

Research itself must therefore be supported. We will finance the engineers, researchers, and academics. We will support them, and we will treat them even more carefully—and this may tie in with the first decree of our Russian president, which he adopted when he took his post, on students, on higher educational establishments. We are thinking of the future. If we are thinking of the future, then we must take care that science is supported by the state. Well, from the point of view of where it should be, then at present very complex processes are taking place. A considerable number of scholars, of members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, are expressing their thoughts on switching to Russian jurisdiction. We are now conducting very serious consultations so as not to spoil the business and act according to considerations for improving the work, let us say, of the Academy. We know how eminent the Russian Academy was, and we intend to resurrect it—and we will invite the country's leading scholars to our Russian Academy. There are quite a few Russians. We are thus involved in these questions, but I want to assure all our scholars and our engineers that we will adopt measures to set up a background conducive to research, study, and experimental design work.

[Lapina] Here is a specific question. Alekseyeva, Margarita Fedorovna, pensioner, asks, addresses us. Will your government, our Russian Government, increase compensation at least? We have spoken a lot about the Pavlov policy, of the policy of increasing prices. I also condemn this, but one would like our Russian Government to at least set up decent compensation. There is concern here.

[Silayev] Well, Aleks...[corrects himself] Margarita Fedorovna, as you are a pensioner, I have just been talking about categories—including, primarily, pensioners, and according to age and according to labor, according to disablement. All those who cannot work

any more. We will without question care for them first and foremost and, naturally, introduce compensation. We are simply saying that we are incapable, and consider it is not right, to introduce compensation taking into account the increases in prices—and unfortunately this process will continue for a certain time—to compensate everyone completely for this increase. As it is, there is already a stratum of quite well-off citizens, far better off than, for instance, the Russian prime minister or the government members, many times better, actually. There we consider that it is not necessary to introduce compensation. In some places, for the averagely well-off strata, this will be a certain percentage, and for such as you, Margarita Fedorovna, and the stratum of many millions of our pensioners, there will be full compensation for the increases in prices.

[Lapina] Here is another concrete question: The government has reduced gasoline funds by 40 percent. How are the medical workers to manage? The motor vehicles which provide for the vital needs of the hosptials are standing idle. The supply of food to patients is being brought to a standstill.

[Silayev] Yes. Well, first of all, this measure—the question is from Yevgeniy Dmitriyevich Kayukin, yes?—I will simply explain to you, Yevgeniy Dmitriyevich, that this measure was taken for the period of the harvest season, the bringing in of the harvest, when we were forced to throw all our efforts and resources into the countryside. If you will direct your attention to the reports that have been covering the processes of the harvest camapaign, there have been very few complaints of lack of kerosene or gas or diesel fuel. There were some, of course, because of slowness or unpunctual deliveries. But in principle we have provided the rural areas with all their requirements for the various types of fuel; and that has been done in part by means of the 40 percent reduction, decrease, for that period, of the limits to other services. Now that is coming to an end, and of course we—especially those social areas such as for example health, public education, and others—we will rectify the situation, without fail.

[Lapina] Ivan Stepanovich, we do not have much time left, so to close I would like to ask you this question from Kanitova in Moscow: (?Globa) predicts that the putsch was only a rehearsal, and that there will be a repetition on 17-19 September, instability at the end of October, and a terrible period at the of the year. Do you believe in it? I do not believe in predictions. It is only when things are going badly for the country that these soothsayers appear, the belief in something supernatural. Well, actually the question is addressed to you, not to me, but I would like you, after you have answered the writer of the letter, to leave time—though we do not have much—to make your own prediction as to what is in store for us in the coming year.

[Silayev] Yes. Well, the 17th-19th is in two or three days' time. I am sure that there is no reason to expect any serious global upheavals in our society today. But one cannot say that having localized and called to account the organizers of the putsch—the putsch was simply terrifying, and the consequences...[changes thought]...evidently in time we will publish all the materials, and our citizens will see how deeply it was all thought out; it was not a chance phenomenon, their suddenly having conceived some desire—it was a deeply thought out program, layered in depth [eshelonirovanyy], I would say, and it is very good that the people won, the people coped with that task. But all the same, problems remain. Naturally the people expect, and the people's patience may come to end, after all. Our main task is not to let that happen. That is why we are now working very actively with the Western countries. They are today very willing to come to us—and not only for talks, as together with them we are working out a program to improve the state of affairs.

Naturally, we must tackle urgent matters to make our citizens in the Soviet Union feel certain improvements. Such opportunities now exist, thanks to the participation of the West. The programs for implementation must then be set. As soon as our citizens begin to sense some improvement in the state of the economy, the situation will begin to get better. Towns and villages will grow calmer. Acuteness will begin to fade in interethnic matters. Then the soil, the source of nourishment for those who would like to stop all these democratic processes, and go back to old structures, will begin to slip away from them beneath their feet. That must be prevented—and this is precisely what all the work of the RSFSR Government and of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy is aimed at.

[Lapina] Let us now go back to our current reality. My question is specific: Will the main funds of Russia be distributed among all its individuals?

[Silayev] Thank you, Irina Nikolayevna. Your question is naturally legitimate. But I want to ask you to read carefully the law on privatization. I do not mean the law on the privatization of housing, but the law on privatization in general, which in fact says that the main funds of Russia are to be divided among all the members of our society—from a baby to an old man. I have already spoken about the ten thousand rubles—this figure will, of course, change as the cost of living is changing. This will be carried out.

[Lapina] Incidentally, it is practically impossible to become acquainted with the RSFSR laws. Cannot the laws be published in a mass edition? asks Marinin.

[Silayev] All right, we will ask our ministry, I will say to Comrade Poltoranin that they have got to take care of this.

[Lapina] When will the prices for children's goods fall? asks Chernov from Yeltsy. There was a news conference where this question was asked. There are many promises, and yet there are no results in reality.

[Silayev] A fall—that is, a natural reduction in prices—is possible only when our national economy, especially the sector affecting, in our view, the consumer goods market, begins to produce more goods. Our entire economic policy is being aimed precisely at this, including conversion implemented differently from the way it used to be carried out before, when no one knew in whose interests and for what purpose these processes were to be introduced. We are now reshaping this program, working together with defense enterprises, and also with textile enterprises and others. So a price fall can be expected when demand at least begins to be met. As to introducing price reductions administratively, we have now understood, with regret, that we cannot not do that. But that is a separate matter. There is a need to look into this again, however, primarily from the viewpoint of the need to support through appropriate compensations families with many children. We know how expensive these products are now.

We know how expensive these goods are today—and already today a family with an average wage has very great problems. We are here addressing heads of factories, enterprises, and municipal executive bodies to search for funds from their local budgets and, naturally, to help large families to cope with the problems of children's clothing, footwear, and everything concerning children.

[Lapina] A question from Filippova. She is from Naberezhnyye Chelny. She poses us a question. We are in Tataria. We came on contract to the Kama Automobile Works. We built it. Do we have the right to possess these securities, living in a sovereign Tataria?

[Silayev] Well, each person has securities to the value of R10,000. I have already said—no matter whether he has worked or not. Here I realize that it is a question of the flotation of shares. This is already a slightly different question. In principle, the flotation of shares is also well known in our programs, including in the law. These processes are not simple, but the labor collectives must, of course, take into account not only their labor today, but also their past labor, including that of pensioners who worked day in day out at the Kama Automobile Works and at other enterprises, as well as the builders who built it. After all, together with the labor collective, it was they who set up the basic funds. Therefore I ask labor collectives and leaders of enterprises to this into account—and not only regarding this specific example, but on the whole, in the whole of the national economy.

[Lapina] Well, Ivan Stepanovich, our broadcast, a live meeting, is coming to an end. On behalf of our television viewers I would like to thank you, and in conclusion read out what are no longer questions, but wishes.

From Shtabskaya: One would like to pass on to Ivan Stepanovich and all our Russian Government endurance and health. We, Russians, support the policy of the Russian Government. And Ivashenko, Yevgeniy Yefremovich: Esteemed Ivan Stepanovich, we worked together in the Ministry for the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry. During this time you showed yourself to be a good organizer, and set the work of the Ministry for the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry to rights. I hope that you act just as confidently and energetically as before. Thank you.

[Silayev] Thank you.

[Lapina] It remains for us to say goodbye. Until our next meeting. We are waiting for new, interesting questions from you. You can send your questions to our editorial office beforehand. Goodbye. Until our new meetings!

[Silayev] Goodbye.

External Affairs

Baker Visits to St. Petersburg, Baltics Reported

PM1609133991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

["Own information" report under general headline: "U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Lubyanka at Last"]

[Text] On the evening of 13 September James Baker arrived in St. Petersburg. The U.S. secretary of state and Anatoliy Sobchak, the city's mayor, who greeted him, left the airport for the residence of the U.S. consul general, where they had talks.

In Tallinn, where U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived 14 September, he had talks with Supreme Soviet Chairman Arnold Ruutel. Problems of bilateral relations and the Baltic states' inclusion in the world community were discussed at the meeting. Baker also met with Prime Minister E. Savisaar and made a statement for the press, from which journalists learned that the United States is allocating $14 million to the three Baltic republics by way of concrete aid. Most-favored-nation status in trade will be extended to these republics.

A few hours later J. Baker set out for Riga. He passed on to the Latvian leadership information received from the USSR defense minister on a possible date for the start of the Soviet troop withdrawal from the Baltic region—1 January 1994. If the republics help to resolve questions of building apartments for servicemen on the territory of Russia, the troops might be withdrawn earlier.

On the evening of the same day Baker had meetings in Vilnius with Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman V. Landsbergis and Prime Minister G. Vagnorius. The visit to Lithuania lasted only approximately 150 minutes. At a subsequent news conference Landsbergis evaluated it as brief but very substantive.

Yeltsin, SPD Chairman View Economic Situation

LD1709104491 Hamburg DPA in German 0953 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—It is the opinion of Russian President Boris Yeltsin that the economic situation in the Soviet Union will reach a particularly critical phase in the first three months of next year. This view was expressed by Yeltsin in a conversation on Tuesday with Bjoern Engholm, the Social Democratic Party [SPD] national chairman, who is in Moscow together with a delegation of the Socialist International.

According to Engholm, Yeltsin expects that by that time all the Soviet citizens' supplies will be exhausted. By then living standards, which in some areas are already below subsistence level, will, in the estimation of the Russian president, fall by a further 25 percent. The biggest problem continues to be the country's storage and distribution system.

Engholm said Yeltsin emphasized that comprehensive nuclear disarmament, as well as biological and chemical disarmament, are his firm aim. "We now have an opportunity to disarm as never before," the SPD chairman said. Together with this, the old social democratic idea of a security partnership can be realized. The delegation saw Yeltsin as a president "of unbelievable strength and optimism in the future." Anyone now not investing in the country is missing good opportunities for the future, Engholm said.

In view of the still undecided issue of future control of Soviet nuclear weapons, Yeltsin made it clear that the best way of preventing the emergence of new nuclear powers is the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The delegation, which also includes Pierre Mauroy, chief of the French socialists, afterwards met Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet head of state. On Monday former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, during a meeting with the delegation, also painted a somber picture of the Soviet Union's economic situation.

Khasbulatov Interviewed on Kurile Islands, Aid

Explains Five-Point Plan

OW1609182291 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1400 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Report on interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic, by correspondent Kukin in Tokyo on 13 September]

[Text] Asked about a resolution of the territories issue, the most important issue between Japan and the USSR, Khasbulatov answered:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] Among other things, I would like to explain a five-point plan, offered by Yeltsin, for settling the territories issue. As far as I know, Yeltsin proposed this concept in January 1990, long before rising to power. The concept was progressive at the time.

First, the concept recognized the existence of the territories issue between the USSR and Japan. So far, the Soviet Union and Japan have maintained a winner-loser relationship. An influential Russian politician has, however, abruptly recognized the existence of the territories issue between the two countries and stressed the need for settlement. These were bold remarks.

Second, he advocated a five-point plan for resolving the issue. This plan was a concrete measure for settlement.

The situation has now changed, and Yeltsin is president of the Russian Republic. I now support him. We should assume responsibility for resolving our nation's problems. Therefore, we cannot hold fast to the concept we offered 18 months ago.

Before leaving Moscow to come to Japan, I met with Yeltsin. At the meeting, we agreed that although the past plan was a good foundation for settling the issue, we need not stick to it.

The five points of Yeltsin's plan have been reviewed and reduced. In principle, however, we think that the plan is good; it could help resolve the issue in stages. The issue could be resolved if we abandon our idea that the Soviet Union was a winner and Japan a loser in World War II and if we see Japan as our great friend. We should develop friendly relations with Japan.

What should we do to that end? We need to talk with Japan about ending current confrontations, including the territories issue, between our countries. We are ready to talk with Japan about the territories.

Needless to say, however, we have to listen to the views of local authorities and people living in the Kurils. In a democratic society, their views should be taken into account. [end recording]

During his recent visit to Japan, Khasbulatov raised the issue of Japan's economic aid to the Soviet Union. Regarding this, Khasbulatov commented as follows:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] The Japanese Government, Japanese enterprises, and I discussed large-scale economic aid to the USSR. We need $8-15 billion in economic aid from Japan, in addition to the $100 million in emergency aid that Japan has already allocated. I think that Japan will begin providing emergency aid to the Soviet Union in December. [end recording]

Discusses Japanese Foreign Policy

LD1709234591 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1752 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Interview with Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, acting Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR)

Supreme Soviet chairman, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ruslan Imranovich, during your three-day visit to Japan, what problems were paramount over the South Kuril Islands—also known as the northern territories? Economic? Political?

[Khasbulatov] Yes, you really have asked about the key issue, which, of course, was constantly raised. It naturally was of great interest to the Japanese side. It is the question of the four Kuril Islands. Actually, there are eight of them: Shikotan itself consists of five islands. This has become a national problem for Japan, and in recent years there has been a very substantial convergence of views among different sociopolitical groups in Japanese society which are quite categorically posing the problem of resolving this issue and developing long-term economic relations with us.

So, this tone could be heard very earnestly during our trip today. You will be aware that on several occasions the leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party has invited the head of parliament, but the circumstances somehow did not allow us. Finally, in the form of two Presidium members and the deputy foreign minister, we departed. We conveyed a message from Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to the government leadership and Mr. Kaifu that it is necessary for us to develop these relations. These unresolved problems still await us. If you recall, Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin forwarded a five-stage approach to solving these problems. It is fairly long. This was 18 months ago. I personally informed them that our parliament supports this principle on the whole. Of course, in accordance with the new conditions, some stages could be reduced, but on the whole we believe that this position is a convincing one, so we ask that they give due attention to this plan for developing and deepening our ties.

One other thing is a rather serious obstacle to implementing these large-scale ties with us: the principle of integrating politics and economics in Japanese foreign policy. When I was told of this principle, our reaction naturally was that, of course, we respect their foreign and domestic policy and this principle, in particular, but that in the fairly difficult circumstances that we, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, find ourselves in, we would ask for emergency economic aid outside the framework of this principle. It seems that we did succeed somewhat in convincing them that such emergency economic assistance was possible. However, it is an important factor that the previous Gorbachev visit also laid some kind of foundation with respect to recognizing the existence of this problem. Given that such a problem exists, it needs to be tackled somehow. Public opinion on the Japanese side needs to be considered, as well as our own domestic public opinion, of course, and the interests of the people living in the islands.

[Correspondent] The opinion prevailed in the Japanese press until recently—I have in mind until the recent events—that one of the chief obstacles to tackling the territorial problem was the position of the Russian leadership in the person of Boris Yeltsin. This was a reference to the confrontation between the center and the Russian Republic. Has this view altered in Japan? Did you sense any change in the Japanese attitude?

[Khasbulatov] You know, statements to that effect were made, but I don't believe this was the view of the ruling political circles in Japan, although this view was strenuously being propagated. However, the problem here runs much deeper, of course. We have believed and continue to believe that it is a bilateral problem, that it has a bilateral aspect and needs to tackled by Russia and Japan directly, although we naturally don't reject the involvement of union political and diplomatic structures or coordination of some sort. However, it is our own Russian problem.

That is why now—it seems to me—such a serious legal and political basis has been created for the Japanese side to recognize that there can be no decision here without a bilateral relationship between Russia and Japan. The emphasis should be placed on Russia's foreign policy, I think, and on the president and on the parliament of the Supreme Soviet. Naturally, I would like to stress again that we must consider people's opinion, our people. They are not to blame for anything. They found themselves in the same situation—that is, when another state allegedly lays claims to their territory. Of course, this places a certain amoung of anxiety in people's heads. However, I want to be firm in saying that, of course, in all the cases and in all the circumstances we will consider people's interests.

[Correspondent] The problem of relations between the Soviet Union—Russia—and Japan dates back to the postwar world reconstruction by the great powers; in other words, the return of the northern territories puts political reconstruction of the world, which had taken place after World War II, into question. How will your government consider this issue?

[Khasbulatov] You see, the thing is that, somehow, traditionally, diplomacy for us has been politics examining relations between two countries, between winners and losers. This doctrine has probably had a right to exist because it used to be derivative of the whole system of relations of the cold war period. The cold war ceased to exist as a factor of world politics. This decision can be good or bad, but the reunification of the two Germanies put an ultimate end to this doctrine of relationship between winners and losers.

[Correspondent] On the whole, coverage in the Japanese, Western, and Soviet press was favorable. It was noted that the visit introduces a lot of new things, and one can expect a lot of new things from it. Then, a famous IZVESTIYA article emerged. It quotes your words and draws certain conclusions on the aims of your visit. What can you say about it?

[Khasbulatov] To be frank, the article came as an unpleasant surprise to me, because there was no truth in it. It was all pulled out of different speeches and different contexts. However, I know of the real motives. There are

political motives here. It is an attempt to twist Russian foreign policy, an attempt to demonstrate that there is no such thing as Russian foreign policy and show that unqualified people are in charge of it. Then there were obviously the approaching Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies sessions. You will recall the last dramatic Congress. Certain ideological forces of ours are evidently trying to use this somehow to discredit the acting Supreme Soviet chairman.

[Correspondent] The two Germanies have been united, and the Berlin Wall has fallen. To Japan, the northern territories are like the Berlin Wall. Will the wall betweeen Russia and Japan come down, too?

[Khasbulatov] I believe it will. I think that my colleagues—Presidium members Krasavchenko and (Polenov) and Deputy Foreign Minister (Kunadze)... [changes thought] I put it quite convincingly and frankly. We explained that our public opinion at the present stage, at this moment, is completely unprepared and that we had to create certain preconditions to ensure that the population and public opinion supports these aspirations of ours.

[Correspondent] Resolving the northern territories problem has a direct connection with the intensificaton of ethnic conflicts inside the Soviet Union. It is said in this context that the return of the northern territories to Japan could encourage an intensificaton of ethnic conflicts, including on Russian territory. How will this problem be considered?

[Khasbulatov] As normal economic development is consolidated and the economy is stabilized, these fears will fall away. In general, a market economy presupposes an erosion of territorial borders. There is the real emergence of a single economic space, legal space, and legislative space. I expect these things to subside within our country.

Parliamentary Delegation Visits Israel 12-16 Sep

LD1709095791 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhurdo]

[Text] Tel Aviv September 16 TASS— A delegation from the Russian parliament, led by the chairman of the parliament's Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Committee, Vladimir Lukin, paid a five-day visit to Israel from September 12-16.

The Russian parliamentarians were received by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky and had a conversation with Foreign Minister David Levi.

Vladimir Lukin told TASS he was satisfied with the meetings, which, according to him, marked another step towards a better understanding between Israel and new Russia.

The delegation brought to the notice of the Israeli leaders the Russian democratic leadership's stance toward Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel: Russia's leaders hold that the problem is unrelated to the current political situation. It is viewed as an aspect of human rights and the value of the human individual.

Russia, Lukin noted, is interested in Israel and the Soviet Union restoring their diplomatic relations, but believes it should be done in a delicate way.

As regards the establishment of official relations between Israel and Russia and other republics, it is expected to follow the settlement of relations at the Union level.

"We saw with our own eyes how great is the influence of Russian culture and the Russian language in Israel now. There is also an understanding that Russia is a country of great importance to Israel," Lukin said.

Israeli Delegation Concludes 'Positive' Visit

OW1709151691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Israeli parliamentary delegation led by Michael Kleiner, chairman of the committee on emigration and absorption, concluded its visit to the Russian Federation. It had conferred with the leaders of Russian parliament and with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov. According to M. Kleiner, during their meeting with A. Belonogov Israeli parliament members pointed to the need to restore as soon as possible full-scale diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel. He didn't rule out the possibility that the Russian Federation will establish diplomatic relations with Israel and open its embassy there before the USSR does so. However, said M. Kleiner, we would prefer the USSR to be the first. According to him, the attitude of the Russian leadership to establishing diplomatic relations with Israel is very positive.

Russian Republic To Apply for UN Membership

PM1609085591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Untitled report from roundup of IZVESTIYA, TASS, REUTER, INTERFAX, and RIA reports]

[Text] Russia intends to send an application for membership to the United Nations and to open embassies in those countries with which the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] is linked by the relevant agreements.

For the time being, there will only be a Russian representative in the United Nations because, the RSFSR president says, full membership will require currency expenditure at present beyond the republic's powers. For the same reason diplomats representing the interests of the RSFSR will be included within the staff of the USSR Embassy.

Local Affairs

Chechen-Ingush Emerging From Political Crisis

Provisional Council Takes Over

LD1709083791 Moscow TASS in English 0638 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sh. Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 16 (TASS)—The Chechen-Ingush Republic, it seems, is beginning to get out of the political crisis which continues for the fourth week. The republican parliament's self-dissolution was announced at the just-concluded emergency session.

All legislative power has been transferred to a provisional council headed by USSR People's Deputy Lechi Magomadov.

The council, which includes people's deputies and representatives of the republic's insurrectionist democratic forces, has been instructed to organise and hold an election of new power bodies within two months.

At a rally here, these decisions were viewed in different ways. Some people are displeased that the council includes deputies that have lost people's trust.

National movement leader Dzhakhar Dudayev stated that the executive committee of the national congress of the Chechen people would attentively consider and apparently somewhat change the composition of the council.

Acting chairman of Russia's parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the rally in the evening and appeared on local television, congratulating the people of the Chechen-Ingush Republic on the triumph of democratic forces and urging them to discontinue meetings and demonstrations, to disband armed groups and set down to work all together.

There is hope that people will heed the advice of their eminent fellow countryman.

Temporary Supreme Council Set Up

OW1709195891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As a result of consultations between public organizations of the Chechen-Ingush Republic in Groznyy Monday a temporary Supreme Council of Chechen-Ingush consisting of 13 members was elected. Husein Akhmatov is its chairman and Yury Chiorny is his deputy.

The Supreme Council will be engaged in preparations for the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in the republic. The date of the elections are still being discussed. It is not excluded that the preliminary date—November 17—will remain.

The creation of the Supreme Council was preceded by mass rallies in Groznyy during the last few days. Participants in the rallies demanded the immediate resignation of former Chairman of the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Soviet Doku Zavgayev and the dissolution of the republican parliament.

Sobchak Replaces Leningrad Broadcasting Chief

PM1609155191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 2

[Report from I. Potekhin "City News" roundup under the general heading: "Everything in St. Petersburg Is As It Was in Leningrad"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—The day before yesterday, the Leningrad Television and Radio Broadcasting Company labor collective gathered for a conference. The purpose of the conference was quite specific—to finally ratify its leader. After all, Boris Petrov, who has been at the helm for almost two years now, was only acting chairman of the Leningrad Television and Radio Broadcasting Committee. The labor collective has frequently said that it would like to see Petrov as its absolute [polnovlastnyy] boss rather than as a temporary official.

How astounded television and radio journalists were when Anatoliy Sobchak asked to speak before the conference started and announced that Viktor Yugin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Glasnost and the Mass Media, had been appointed the new acting head of the television and radio broadasting committee. Petrov had accordingly been removed. This announcement came as a total surprise not only to the radio and television personnel and Petrov, but even to Yugin himself.

After acquainting the people with his decision, the mayor withdrew. Admittedly, in parting, in order to somehow neutralize the indignation in the hall, Sobchak reminded them that Yugin was as yet only appointed acting chairman. A Leningrad Soviet session and Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the All-Union Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, still have to ratify him in this post.

Ukraine

Armed Forces Come Under Jurisdiction of Republic

PM1709124191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Tsikora under the rubric "Direct Line": "The Ukrainian Armed Forces Are Growing"]

[Text] Kiev—There is at the moment only one staffer at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry: the minister himself - nevertheless, the republic's armed forces are growing, not by the day, but by the hour.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has emerged as the most active participant in military organizational development. Its presidium has issued several decrees and orders of fundamental significance. Paramount among them is an act transferring the military commissariats located on the republic's territory to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers and the oblast soviets.

Conscious that raw recruits cannot be fashioned into a proper army overnight, the legislature has begun to implement the idea of creating its own armed forces by bringing the troops stationed on its territory under the republic's jurisdiction. This has affected first of all USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] units and border guard commands. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium has issued two special decrees on this matter.

According to one of these, "all military units of USSR MVD internal troops stationed on the republic's territory, their command and control agencies, together with their weapons, their material, and technical base" are transferred to Ukrainian jurisdiction.

These troop units, the republic Supreme Soviet Presidium decree says, form the basis for the creation of a Ukrainian republican guard. The parliament has to confirm its commander, who is directly subordinate to the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

The border guards military units have passed to Ukrainian jurisdiction under another legal act. Now, according to a republic Supreme Soviet Presidium decree, the commander of the Ukrainian border guards will be subject to the confirmation of the Supreme Soviet, and will be subordinate to the republic's cabinet of ministers.

We should not fail to mention the most recent order by Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman L. Kravchuk, which affects the interests of all military formations in the republic. Henceforth, the redeployment of troop formations either within the republic's territory or across its borders, or the removal of military hardware, weapons systems, or military equipment will not be permitted except by prior arrangement with the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. Nor is it permitted to introduce military units which are being redeployed onto Ukrainian territory without Ukrainian government sanction. The KGB, the MVD, the Defense Ministry, and the relevant commission of the republic's Supreme Soviet are responsible for monitoring this.

Defense Minister Favors Retaining Nuclear Arms

LD1809013391 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Video report by correspondent L. Ilchenko, including recorded interview with Major General Konstantin Petrovich Morozov, Ukrainian defense minister, place and date not given; from the "TV Inform" newscast presented by Pavel Kasparov]

[Text] Our program today presents the minister of the Armed Forces of the Ukraine, Aviation Major General Konstantin Morozov.

[Ilchenko] The Ministry does not as yet have an office, while the minister of the Armed Forces has not been released from his duties as Air Force commander in the Ukraine. Konstantin Petrovich Morozov is 46 years old. He hails from Lugansk. After he graduated from school, he went to the Kharkov Air Force Academy. Subsequently, at the controls of a military fighter plane, he spent more than 2,000 hours in the air. The minister graduated from the Gagarin Air Force Academy and the General Staff Academy. In literature, he prefers the classics and modern publicistic works. Akhmatova and Yesenin are his favorite poets. As for his family, his wife is a historian, and his daughter an engineer. All of them live together in a regular city apartment. They have neither a dacha nor a car of their own... How do you see the Ukrainian Armed Forces?

[Morozov] I see the Ukrainian Armed Forces as being first and foremost independent, as befits any independent state. Recruitment would be irrespective of nationality, and would be based on the grouping currently deployed on the republican territory. The Ukrainian Armed Forces could be formed of two components: general security forces, which may include the strategic forces, the nuclear component included; and the Ukraine's own Armed Forces, on the basis of the forces currently stationed here.

[Ilchenko] Tell me, do you favor nuclear arms remaining on our territory, or not?

[Morozov] Yes, they ought to remain, but the command of all nuclear forces ought to remain under one roof, in the joint coalition command, and this ought to be entrusted to one command body.

Rukh's Drach Questioned on Independence Referendum

AU1809091391 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 12 Sep 91 p 6

[Interview with Ivan Drach, leader of the Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka [Rukh], by Andrzej Kaczynski; place and date not given: "'We Drew Inspiration From You....'"]

[Text] [Kaczynski] Why did the opposition agree to submit the question of the Ukraine's independence to a referendum on 1 December, as if the Supreme Council independence declaration of 24 August were only conditional until that date?

[Drach] That is a mystery to me, too. Even today, I still cannot say whose initiative it was and what the intention of those who formulated it was. I think it was meant to provide a means of delaying Ukrainian independence. The opposition had nothing to do with it.

[Kaczynski] Who announced the referendum? Was it the Supreme Council Presidium?

[Drach] Yes, and I think it was that body's last act as the spokesman and defender of the Russian empire's interests. The situation has changed, and the referendum question might have to be formulated differently. We will definitely have to work to make sure that we do not lose. Above all, we will have to ensure that an independent Ukraine with all its structures really does come into existence.

[Kaczynski] How does your group intend to implement independence, which was declared so unexpectedly?

[Drach] First and foremost, independence has not come as surprise to us. We campaigned for it. It is a surprise for those who opposed it. We are seeking to solve concrete problems, starting at the "top." We have to bring about changes in the composition of the Supreme Council, which means removing people who have been discredited, who are irresolute, and replacing them with genuine advocates of democracy and independence, that is, with people from the opposition. Further, a government of national confidence has to be formed. Next, personnel has to be replaced at all levels of the state administration. There are still members of the Communist Party, which has become discredited by acting against the interests of the Ukrainian people, in positions of power.

[Kaczynski] Is the opposition strong enough to be able to govern?

[Drach] It has to be. The leader of the communist majority in the Supreme Council has announced that the faction will be dissolved. The individual members of the faction will organize themselves in various ways or will join democratic clubs. The communist majority has collapsed, and its place has to be taken by a people's council, and there has to be an agreement between all democratic and independence movements and parties.

[Kaczynski] Has independence already become a fact? What could still threaten it?

[Drach] It would be easier to say what does not threaten it.... One cannot talk about one specific fact, about a particular moment that constitutes a breakthrough: The recovery of independence is a process that will take many years.

What threatens us? There are 1.2 million Soviet Army troops stationed in the Ukraine. There are more than 200 strategic nuclear missiles in the Ukraine, and we do not want them here, but they cannot be dismantled and moved out overnight. The KGB still exists, and it has not suffered any kind of setback and has not repented before the nation against whom it committed so many wrongs. In the GDR every fourth citizen cooperated with the secret services, and in Romania, it was every fourth: It is hard to imagine that the situation was any different in the Ukraine. Although a ban has been imposed on the activities of the communist party, its structures have not been dissolved, but are lying in wait to see how events unfold. They will find it difficult to come to terms with the necessity of disappearing from the political scene. Then there is the arms industry complex, which according to some estimates accounts for 50 percent and according to others, for 80 percent of the Ukraine's productive capacity. Formally, the arms industry has been placed under Kiev's authority, but in reality it is still under Moscow's control.

[Kaczynski] What threatens Ukrainian democracy? Do you not expect an explosion of nationalism, for example?

[Drach] In my opinion, that does not constitute a significant threat. I assume you are thinking of Galicia, the Western Ukraine. There are small groups in Lvov or in the Rovnoye area, but they do not have much significance. They are not very popular, especially not among young people. Nationalism feeds on captivity. As an opportunity has arisen to unite society around a program of independence, the interest in nationalism will decline.

[Kaczynski] What about the opposite phenomenon—centrifugal tendencies, or even separatism among the non-Ukrainian or Russified population?

[Drach] That is a phenomenon inspired by Moscow. In the Ukraine, as was the case in Moldova a year ago, divisions are being created by those who want to remain in power. There is the Russian population problem: All the same, they account for 10 million or perhaps even 12 million of the 52 million inhabitants of the Ukraine. There are whole Russian regions: Donetsk, Novorossiya, the Crimea, and Transcarpathian. We will not agree to separatism in any form. There is not one single kilometer of the Ukraine's borders that cannot be questioned—either by us or by someone else. So, the entire problem has to be simply ruled out. There is no border problem and there can be no border problem. However, we know that the border question is a card that will be played.

[Kaczynski] You are threatened by poverty. Does Rukh have an economic program?

[Drach] Yes, our economists have already worked out a plan for leading the Ukraine to economic independence and have submitted it to the Supreme Council, which is carrying out further work on the plan. Without going into details, the problem centers on the opposite of the biblical saying about not pouring new wine into old bottles. We have to decide how old bottles can be filled with new wine.

[Kaczynski] What course do you see the presidential elections in the Ukraine taking?

[Drach] We have to avoid the "Iliescu option" at all costs: The authorities only undergo cosmetic changes, assume a new name..... The post-communist forces will most probably be represented by Supreme Council Chairman Leonid Kravchuk, who, with a few skillful gestures, can present himself as a honest democrat and an advocate of independence. The opposition will put forward several candidates, but I hope that during the election campaign they will reach agreement on one candidate, so as to avoid the risk of splitting the vote; they might even reach agreement before the first round of voting. The question is too important.

[Kaczynski] Will you agree to some new form of the Soviet Union?

[Drach] Definitely not in a political form: Sovereignty cannot be open to discussion. However, an economic union will be necessary, at least during a transition period. Until the Ukraine can maintain an army of its own, it will be necessary to agree on maintaining some kind of joint army, and the problem of strategic weapons will have to be resolved....

The Ukraine is proceeding along its own, native path to independence, and it cannot be compared to the Polish path or the "Solidarity" path, although I have to say that we drew inspiration from you. We owe a great debt of gratitude to "Solidarity" activists for supporting Rukh: Adam Michnik attended our founding congress, and Lech Walesa, before he became president, sent us a message wishing us well for the Rukh congress last year. This positive attitude on the part of Polish democrats was exceptionally important for us. It is something that we remember now, when we see the arrival of independence.

39 Candidates Register for President of Republic

OW1709190391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] To date, 39 contenders for presidency have been registered in the Ukraine, the Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission told IF [INTERFAX]. Almost half of them have advanced their candidatures on their own. There are many pensioners and non-working people among the candidates.

To be entered in the ballot paper each of them is to collect at least 100,000 signatures of supporters by October 1. Presidential elections will be held on December 1.

Candidate Igor Yukhnovskiy said at a press conference in Kiev that "the Ukraine is in need of a credit, or else it will be very difficult for it to get out of the difficult position it has found itself in." He also urged Ukrainian representatives not to work in the Union parliament.

Rukh Organizer Yavorivskyy Nominated

LD1709112991 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2100 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The presidium of the non-party republic's organization, Union Chernobyl [as heard], held its meeting to discuss certain organizational issues related to the nomination of a candidate for the presidential elections in Ukraine. The candidate Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, born 1942, was one of the organizers of the people's movement Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] , he is people's deputy of Ukraine, head of a standing commission of Ukraine's parliament on Chernobyl issues. In his interview for Radio Kiev, Volodymyr Yavorivskyy said that he viewed Ukraine as an independent and sovereign state. The president of Ukraine, in the opinion of the candidate, should be independent from any party structures and dependent on the people of the republic.

Miners Nominate Candidate

LD1709124691 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Summary] The miners' collectives of several coal mines in Lugansk Oblast have nominated Vyachelsav Chornovil, chairman of the Lvov Oblast council, as a candidate for president of Ukraine in the elections on 1 December.

State Grain Deliveries at 59 Percent of Plan

LD1809043291 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] To date, the farms of the republic have sold to the state 9.951 million tonnes of grain, which amounts to 59 percent of the plan—that is, 20 percent less than at this time last year. Only five oblasts have fulfilled their quotas: Transcarpathian, Zhitomir, Volyn, Rovnoye, and Lvov.

Despite the measures taken by the government last week, the pace of grain deliveries has hardly changed. The republic's procurement stations receive nearly 30,000 tonnes of grain a day. Also, private households have delivered 86,000 tonnes of grain.

Power Units Shut Down Due to Lack of Fuel

LD1709100991 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Three out of seven power units have been halted at the Zaporozhye power station. Not because of some accident, the reason is simple: there is no fuel, namely coal.

This situation applies to the power network in the whole Ukraine. The output of coal since the miners' strikes has considerably shrunk. The coal reserves in the Republic are now several millions tons lower than last year. The capacity of nuclear power stations in the Ukraine has gone down by 1,400 MW as compared with 1990.

Retail Sales of Flour Banned Due to Low Stores

OW1709220091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2058 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of the Ukraine has put a halt to retail sales of flour to the population due to disastrously inadequate stores of grain so far laid in by state agencies. Only 10m tons [metric tons] of grain have thus far come in from farmers, which is about one-half of the amount necessary to last the republic through the winter.

Farmers are refusing to sell their grain at state procurement prices because they are from six to seven times lower than free market prices.

Refugees Create 'Serious Problems' for Odessa

LD1709230291 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The authorities of the city of Odessa have encountered serious problems due to the situation in the areas adjacent to the Pridnestrovye region. Numerous refugees from Moldova are now arriving in these areas as the result of the ever-growing interethnic conflict in Moldova. A majority of the refugees are Ukrainians who once lived in peace, in accord with the local Moldavian population.

Black Sea Navy Virtually Without Commanders

LD1709224491 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] As a result of the three-day junta, the Black Sea Navy has found itself virtually without commanders. Vice Admiral Nekrasov, chief of the military-political directorate of the Red Banner Black Sea Navy, has been dismissed. Admiral Khronopoulo, commander of the Black Sea Navy, has submitted a request to be released into the reserves. The Sevastopol City Soviet demanded that these two be joined by Captain First Class Knyazev, editor in chief of the Black Sea Navy's paper SLAVA RODINY, who published all orders and instructions of the emergency committee, though without any comments.

Moldova

RSFSR Officials Visit Kishinev for Talks

Meet Dnestr Representatives

LD1709111791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1616 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Kishinev, 16 Sep (TASS)—The working group of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, led by Sergey Krasavchenko, Supreme Soviet Presidium member and chairman of the Commission for Economic Reform and Privatization, has been in the Moldovan Republic since yesterday. Today the Russian representatives are in the Dnestr region, where they are meeting with deputies of the Dnestr Republic Supreme Soviet, the Tiraspol City Soviet, and labor collectives of the left bank of the Dnestr.

The Russian legislators are in Moldova at the invitation of the leadership of the republic, who believe that the Russian deputies will hold constructive dialogue, based on an indivisible Moldova, in their meetings with representatives of both the right and left bank of the Dnestr. Mircha Snegur, President of Moldova, expressed the republic's readiness to work on the treaty signed in 1990 between Russia and Moldova, so as to improve the part concerning the rights of Russians living in Moldova. He believes that this treaty could be improved by adding a number of further provisions.

The head of the Russian Supreme Soviet working group noted in a conversation with a Moldova-Pres agency correspondent, that setting in motion the implementation of the treaty between Russia and Moldova removed a number of problems, including the problem of mutual compensation of repatriated citizens. "The Moldovans will want to take Moldova citizenship and move to Moldova, and the Russians the other way round—to Russia. Under the treaty, a special agreement will be concluded concerning the rights and duties of the sides for organizing the repatriation processes."

During their stay in the Moldovan Republic, the working group will appear on a television program in which they will be able to answer questions from viewers, and will meet with arrested deputies from the Dnestr Republic.

On to Tiraspol, Bendery, Dubossary

AU1709170091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1228 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev], ROMPRES, 17/9/1991—A Russian Federation parliamentary delegation accompanied by Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Victor

Oboroc and Moldovan parliamentarians continued their visit in the Republic of Moldova at Tiraspol, Tighina [Bendery] and Dubossary.

The so-called Transdnestr's deputies also attended the meeting at Tiraspol where the head of the Russian Federation parliamentary delegation Sergey Kravchenko said that President Yeltsin had told them to look into the situation in the Republic of Moldova, including in its south "in the conditions of independence and sovereignty", as well as into the prospect for a treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova to be ratified. However, the Russian parliamentarians showed that in the territory of Moldova only the laws of the Republic of Moldova were in force.

The next leg of the Russian Federation parliamentary delegation is Tighina.

Dnestr Deputies Appeal for Recognition of Republic

LD1809021691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Pridnestrovye people's deputies today signed an appeal to the Supreme Soviet and the president of Moldova. The document proposes, in particular, that the existence of the Pridnestrovskaya Moldavskaya Soviet Socialist Republic be recognized as a reality, and that official talks on the entire gamut of problems that have piled up be started without delay.

Snegur Outlines Main Aspects of Republic Policy

PM1709160391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Eduard Kondratov report: "Moldova Will Not Join Political Alliances"]

[Text] Kishinev—Moldovan President Mircha Snegur has addressed a session of the Moldovan legislature to outline the main aspects of the republic's foreign and domestic policy.

In his words, the acquisition of independence by the republic completed the first stage of the emancipation movement in Moldova. For all intents and purposes, the "cold war" with the center is over, and now the people have every chance to carry out those reforms which will radically change their lives for the better.

The immediate tasks are as follows: public discussion of the draft of a new constitution; national presidential and local executive organ elections; administrative-territorial reform; and the development of new relations with the countries of Europe, America, and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Snegur stressed that Moldova does not intend to join political alliances but that it does not rule out the possibility of cooperation in a single economic space. Priority must be given to the eradication of inter-ethnic grievances, the creation of a system of guarantees for the observance of human rights, and the creation of conditions for the national minorities' cultural and linguistic development. Equality of all forms of ownership; the immediate privatization of small enterprises, tourism, and the service sector; the stimulation of foreign investment; and scientific and technical integration with the West—these will constitute the basis of Moldova's economic policy.

Snegur on Soviet Disinformation, Dnestr Situation

OW1709194891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the Republic of Moldova, Mircha Snegur, said that the situation in Moldova was quite tense. Addressing the Moldovan parliament on Tuesday, Mr. Snegur accused the central mass media, and Central Television and Russian T.V. in particular, of conducting a disinformation campaign against Moldova. He spoke of the danger that "news broadcast from Moscow might damage Moldova's international reputation" and suggested that a commission of experts be invited to Moldova to look into the true state of affairs.

At President Snegur's suggestion, parliament passed a bill to put the republic's name to the declaration of human rights and freedoms, adopted at the extraordinary session of the Congress of Peoples' Deputies of the USSR on 5th September.

Also today the Moldovan president signed a decree establishing a Moldovan State Commission to look into the problems of the Dnestr region. According to the decree this commission will have the equivalent status of a state department. The commission will be led by member of parliament Ion Russu from the Moldovan side and Stanislav Morozov, the leader of Tiraspol City Soviet from the Dnestr side. The task of the new state department will be to find effective solutions to the issues arising in the conflict situation between Moldova and the Pridnestr Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic which has unilaterally declared its independence.

Barranikov Replies to Charge of Interference

LD1409130891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] We have already reported that a meeting has been held in Moscow between the leadership of the Interior Ministry [MVD] and a group of USSR people's deputies from the Republic of Moldova.

In a telegram sent to Foreign Minister Barannikov, Kostash, head of this department in Moldova, considered that this meeting was direct interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign and independent state, and

as supporting political adventurists. In a reply telegram, Minister Barannikov points out the tendentious assessment of this meeting and warns against the desire to drag the militia into a confrontation between political forces and the attempt to use MVD forces for aims which have nothing to do with the struggle to establish law and order.

Deputy Speaks on Possibility of Joining Romania

OW1709114291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova needs advisers from neither side in disputes on the possibility of joining Romania. The people themselves will have their say, declared Viktor Pushkashu, deputy chairman of Moldova's parliament, in a televised interviev Monday evening.

V. Pushkashu reaffirmed Moldova's intention to take part only in the economic structures of the USSR.

When asked about guarantees for the rights of the non-Moldovan population, V. Pushkashu said that Moldova's leadership "is willing to invite experts from any country" to inspect the state of affairs in this area.

Republic Law Provides for Multiparty Elections

LD1809045191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Kishinev, 17 Sep (TASS)—The first general election for the president of the Republic of Moldova will take place on a multiparty basis. The Republic's legislature adopted a law today: "On political parties and public organizations," reported MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent Aleksandr Tanas.

The law that has been adopted develops the basic principles for the functioning of a multiparty system in Moldova. Under the law, 300 people are required for a new party to be formed. After long discussion, the legislature decided that an initiative group need not have to pay to register its party.

The law stipulates that only the Supreme Court of the Republic can adopt decisions to suspend or stop the activities of a party.

Legislature Accepts Union Human Rights Document

LD1809044491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1332 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Kishinev, 17 Sep (TASS)—The legislature of the Republic of Moldova today unanimously adopted a resolution on the Republic's accession to the declaration of human rights and freedoms, a MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent has reported. As is already known, this was adopted at the emergency USSR Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow on 5 September of this year.

The parliament of the Republic of Moldova has said that it is completely open to the international public. From now on, any international commission may study the problem of the observance of human rights and freedoms, irrespective of nationality or creed, in Moldova.

Georgia

Supreme Council Discusses UN Appeal, 2 Sep

LD1809034291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2230 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] TASS has circulated a report on the sitting of the second session of the Georgian Supreme Council, which ended late last night. The TASS correspondent described the sitting as unprecedented, both for its procedure and for an event which took place at it. It was only five hours after the beginning of the sitting that deputies started to discuss the agenda, the main item on which was an assessment of what happened in Tbilisi on 2 September this year. A group of deputies walked out of the sitting hall in protest against the decision to hold the session behind closed doors. Nevertheless, a decision was made that Georgia will join the UN declaration of human rights as well as the Helsinki and Vienna final documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe—and an appeal was issued, addressed to the UN secretary general and those states of the world which recognized the Georgian democratic state 70 years ago.

A resolution was adopted on the status of the Georgian [as heard] armed forces. It describes them as an occupying military force. Deputies condemned the use of force to break up the meeting on 2 September. A parliamentary commission is to give a political assessment of what happened.

Letter Requests UN Acceptance

AU1709141291 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar from the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia dated in Tbilisi on 15 September]

[Text] To Mr. Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general.

Mr. Secretary General,

In recent years, the events that have developed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have had an important influence upon the fate of the peoples living there.

Democratic movements that have unfolded in certain republics of the Soviet Union have placed on the agenda the question of the restoration of the independence of their states that, in their time, were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union.

The failure of the putsch of 19-21 August 1991 once again confirmed the indestructibility of the democratic processes on the territory of the former Soviet Union [words indistinct] recognition of the independence of the Baltic republics by both the Soviet Union and other countries in the world.

Georgia was one of the first countries in which the national liberation movement strongly unfolded. Following the multiparty elections in 1990, democratic forces assumed power. The referendum of 31 March 1991 clearly confirmed the desire of the Georgian population to restore an independent state. This idea received the support of 90 percent of the Georgian population.

As you know, up to 20 countries recognized Georgia's independence between 1919 and 1921. Representatives of our republic participated in the work of the League of Nations. In 1921, at a meeting of the League of Nations, together with the Baltic republics, the question of Georgia's acceptance was (?raised) in this organization. At that time, our republic received twice as many votes as the Baltic republics that [word indistinct] Georgia's international prestige. However, the annexation that occured on 25 February 1921 ended the process of the restoration of Georgian independence. The Georgian people have never given up the struggle for independence. The crushing of the 1924 uprising, the mass repressions of the 1930's and 1950's, the Georgian dissident movement of the 1970's and 1980's, and finally, 9 April 1989 represents an incomplete list of [word indistinct] that the Georgian people have endured on the long path of (?their struggle).

On 9 April 1991, the Georgian parliament, on the basis of the results of the 31 March referendum, declared the restoration of Georgian state independence.

In recent times, the (?role) of the United Nations has particularly expanded. This international organization today guarantees the protection of the norms of international law in interstate relations, which is confirmed in the regulation of [words indistinct].

In such a situation, we express the hope that the United Nations will view sympathetically the request of the Georgian Government concerning the acceptance of our state into this organization. On our part, we declare that the leaders of the Republic of Georgia [words indistinct] and the Georgian parliament has (?joined) the declaration of human rights, the Helsinki Final Act, and [words indistinct] the establishment of peace in the Caucasus region.

[Signed] The Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia

Tbilisi, 15 September 1991.

Foreign Minister Responds to Pankin Invitation

AU1709122891 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Letter "To Mr. B.D. Pankin, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs," from Murman Omanidze, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Georgia, dated in Tbilisi on 12 September]

[Text] Dear Boris Dmitriyevich,

Thank you for inviting me to take part in the meeting of the Council of the USSR and Union Republics' ministries of foreign affairs, to establish personal contacts with you, and to set up mutually advantageous cooperation. At the same time, I hope that you will regard the following principal considerations with understanding.

At the very first meeting of the State Council, decisions were adopted that are in full conformity with the demands of national self-determination, democracy, and humanism. In accordance with them, the peoples of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were finally given a possibility to restore their independence. At the same time, the Republic of Georgia's request for the right to determine its own fate in accordance with its people's will expressed at the referendum on 31 March 1991 was ignored without any argumentation. Our people and the Government of the Republic of Georgia consider this to be unjustified discrimination.

Proceeding from the above, I am ready to participate in the meeting proposed by you, provided that the issue of the Republic of Georgia's full sovereignty and state independence is on its agenda. We are convinced that a discussion of this question and the opinions voiced by participants in this meeting will undoubtedly play a most important role in achieving a just solution to the problem.

At the same time, we are ready to take part in discussing the questions that you are going to include in the agenda of the meeting.

The Republic of Georgia is ready to actively participate both in the bilateral interaction with the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the multilateral cooperation with republican ministries of foreign affairs and also in the implementation of joint actions in the spirit of the UN Charter and the resolutions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to an extent to which this is going to be in line with the policy proclaimed by the Republic of Georgia president, parliament, and the Cabinet of Ministers.

I would appreciate hearing from you your opinion on the above questions.

Yours respectfully,

M. Omanidze, first deputy minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Georgia.

12 September 1991.

Foreign Ministry Protests RSFSR 'Interference'

AU1709133891 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Letter "To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR," from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia, dated in Tbilisi on 12 September]

[Text] On 10 September, several RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet committees published a statement on the situation in the Republic of Georgia. An attempt was made in this document to misrepresent the actual state of affairs in Georgia and to discredit the democratically elected authorities of the republic on the eve of opening the International Conference on Human Dimension.

The statement alleges, without any substantiation, that the rights of national minorities are violated in Georgia. The authors should have carefully studied international acts on the rights of national minorities and to compare the requirements listed in these acts with the actual conditions in which the minorities reside in Georgia. The rights and freedoms of the national minorities are guaranteed by the Constitution and by the laws of the republic and are ensured by the Georgian leadership.

The statement points to regions of the Republic of Georgia in which human rights are allegedly violated. Such assertions are absolutely unfounded.

Preparations for the elections to the Abkhazian Autonomous Repuiblic Supreme Council are under way. In this context, the statement is clearly provocative in character and promotes the exacerbation of interethnic relations in this Georgian region.

The undesirable processes in the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region are largely due to the following circumstances: From the RSFSR territory, more specifically, from the so-called North Ossetian ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic], armed bandit formations are sent to the territory of Georgia. These formations are engaged in terror, murder, and robbery; large batches of weapons are brought in for the use by extremists. Over the entire period of the conflict, the Russian authorities have not undertaken any serious steps to prevent the bandit groupings or the weapons from penetrating the territory of the Republic of Georgia. This has rendered the settlement of the conflict impossible at the given stage.

The statement mentions the possibility of declaring a state of emergency "in all the zones involved in the conflict." This must be regarded as an explicit threat to use military force, occupy a part of the territory, and violate the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

We are sincerely convinced that the statement issued by several committees of the RSFSR Supreme Council are at variance with the democratic principles, based on respecting state sovereignty, that characterize the present policy of the RSFSR leadership.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia expresses its resolute protest against the blatant interference in the internal affairs of the republic, the

threat of armed intervention, and the attempt to discredit the leadership of the Republic of Georgia. The Ministry believes that such statements do not contribute to the development of good-neighborly relations between our states.

Officials Protest Russian 'Interference'

PM1809094191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Correspondent B. Urigashvili report: Gamsakhurdia Asks Yeltsin to Use Influence Over Newspapers and Television"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Participants in a rally held yesterday observed a minute's silence to honor the memory of Merab Mamardashvili, the outstanding Georgian philosopher. He was the first to warn the Georgian public of the danger of neototalitarianism on the road to independence and was one of Gamsakhurdia's most implacable critics.

The Georgian president has sent a letter to B. Yeltsin claiming that Union and republic mass media are giving false information about events in Georgia in order to discredit it in the eyes of the world's democratic public and impede international recognition of the republic.

"The Republic of Georgia is a sovereign state," Gamsakhurdia writes. "And we would ask you, within the limits of your powers and means, to use your influence on the anti-Georgian forces which are trying to drive a wedge between us and democratic Russia."

Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet, has made a statement about the suspension of the central newspapers. He said that the central newspapers no longer exist as such. And the newspapers which have been suspended are the newspapers of a state which is hostilely disposed toward Georgia, therefore the population has no need whatever of them.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry has protested about a statement by several committees of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet on the situation in the Republic of Georgia, which expresses concern over the human rights and ethnic minorities situations in Georgia. The Georgian Foreign Ministry regarded this statement as interference in the republic's internal affairs.

Georgian Foreign Minister Murman Omanidze sent a letter to USSR Foreign Minister B. Pankin noting that he would take part in the session of the Council of USSR and Union Republic Foreign Ministries only if its agenda included discussion of the question of the situation in Georgia.

Meanwhile rebel National Guard units have mustered in the settlement of Shavnabada. Tengiz Kitovani, its retired commander in chief, instructed the Guard's rank and file members to leave the base and head for home. Only the Guard's cadre officers and warrant officers have stayed behind at the Shavnabade base.

Information Service Criticizes Soviet Media

AU1809084991 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 3

["Press Release by the Republic of Georgia President's Information Service"]

[Text] In recent days, the Republic of Georgia's president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, met with representatives of NEWSWEEK, French TV's Antenne-2, the FINANCIAL TIMES, and with practically all other foreign correspondents who expressed a wish to talk to him.

Unfortunately, they did not include representatives of the Soviet Union's central mass media, first and foremost, those of PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the State Television and Radio Company, and others. It is precisely from their pages and their screen that the Soviet people and foreign readers receive, mildly speaking, biased information that issues from quite dubious sources and is presented under sensational headings and rubrics.

The intentions behind all of this are quite obvious and unabashed. They want to denigrate before the public the Georgian leadership that was legally elected by the overwhelming majority of the people of Georgia and to convince the readers that something terrible is going on in Georgia, that an almost fratricidal war is being prepared, and that human rights and democratic norms are being violated. The real goal is to block the republic's road toward freedom and to suppress the national-liberation movement at the sources of which stood Zviad Gamsakhurdia and his supporters. Here is just one fact for illustration. At the aforementioned meeting with foreign journalists, President Zviad Gamsakhurdia told them that the Central Television carried information to the effect that in the suburb of Shavnabada, where subunits of the National Guard were concentrated, an armed clash took place between the guardsmen and the law-enforcement forces and that 67 people were injured as a result. No such events took place, and the president suggested that the journalists themselves go to the site and make sure of this. The authors of the information and those who transmitted it knew that it was sheer fiction, and yet, in order to sound more convincing, they gave the "precise" figure—67 injured, rather than 60, more than 60, or about 70! A "skillful" method, isn't it?

All of this fits a well-known scenario. It would suffice to recall the epithets the Soviet central press and television conferred upon Vytautas Lansbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Republic, which has now acquired long-awaited freedom and state independence. We do not conceal the fact that today's situation in Tbilisi is complicated. However, this is our internal affair, and nobody has the right to intervene. Therefore, we are not only surprised at but also alarmed by the information to the effect that a group of deputies of the

Russian parliament issued a statement "On the situation in the Republic of Georgia" in which they propose that the state of emergency be introduced in "zones involved in the conflict." We declare this: We do not have such zones. All of this is taking place, despite the fact that it was precisely the Supreme Soviet of Russia that organized, on 19-21 August, the repulse to the putschists and openly came out against the introduction of the curfew in Moscow during the days of the putsch. It is difficult to reconcile oneself to the thought that this statement was adopted by the entire Russian parliament.

The incident of 2 September gave an impetus to the upsurge of the opposition movement. It has found expression in the protest actions and rallies at which the leadership of the republic comes under criticism. The radical opposition advanced the following slogans: Georgia's secession from the USSR, Withdrawal of Soviet Army units, and the Repbulic's joining NATO. In the economic sphere, the demands amount to the introduction of private ownership and privatization of the entire state property (the Party of Georgian National Independence, see PRAVDA of 11 September). However, it must be quite well known to those who follow the events in Georgia that the program adopted by the leadership of the republic includes both the withdrawal of the Soviet Army units and the secession of Georgia from the USSR, while the law on privatization has recently been adopted by the parliament of the republic. The slogans of the (conservative) Monarchist Party are these: There should be no institution of the presidency in Georgia, and another one, Love and accord will ensure Georgian freedom and independence.

At the same time, the radical opposition puts an emphasis on the demand that the actions on the dissipation of the demonstration on 2 September by the OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] be condemned and blames the president of the republic for them.

It must be pointed out here that this question was also raised by foreign journalists and that it was also discussed at rallies in support of the legitimate Government of Georgia. The answer is unambiguous: An investigation of this fact is under way as is also a parliamentary investigation.

Last night, on Rustaveli Avenue, near the headquarters of the National Independence Party, a rally took place and a barricade was put up. We refer here to the information given above [as published] in which the president answers a correspondent's question on the measures against the opposition.

Meanwhile, numerous groups of supporters of President Gamsakhurdia gather virtually around-the-clock near the government building. There are also two tents occupied by participants in the hunger strike protesting against the actions by the radical opposition. They are members of the Ilya the Righteous Society (males) and of the Mesti branch of the Helsinki Union (women). President Gamsakhurdia spoke to them and to those who gathered near the government building.

Also, the republican television broadcast the address by a group of National Guard officers to the entire personnel of the guard calling upon them to remain faithful to the oath of allegiance given to the president.

[Signed] Georgiy Burdzhanadze, press secretary of the president of the Republic of Georgia.

Armed Group Raids TASS Office in Tbilisi

LD1709214191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi, 17 Sep (TASS)—A group of people in civilian clothing mounted a raid on the TASS correspondents' office in the Republic of Georgia yesterday. Some of them were armed with pistols.

After breaking into the premises, the raiders made a thorough search and then took away all the technical communications equipment, official documents, the creative archives, and information papers for the whole of the past year. The raiders fled in a minibus and two Zhiguli cars. The robbers also seized a transistor receiver, a watch, and other items belonging to a correspondent of the agency, to which they took a liking.

The whole operation took place in full view of passers-by and residents of neighboring buildings at about 1700. Many of these people, it turned out later, assumed that it was a sanctioned operation being conducted by the republican militia or a special subunit.

Party Spokesman Reports Arrest of Leader

LD1709123691 Moscow TASS in English 1151 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Georgian authorities have arrested Georgiy Chanturiya, chairman of the Georgian National Democratic Party, after forcing his Moscow-bound plane to turn back to Tbilisi.

Georgiy Zumbadze, spokesman for the party, told TASS that Chanturiya and his wife, press-secretary of the party, had intended to fly from Tbilisi to Moscow by Aeroflot flight No.932. In half an hour after take-off, the plane returned to Tbilisi airport. Thirty armed men boarded the plane and arrested Chanturiya and those with him.

Zumbadze believes they were arrested to prevent them from addressing a news conference in Moscow.

Zumbadze noted that a 50-thousand strong rally in opposition to President Zviad Gamsakhurdia was held

in Tbilisi on Monday. After the rally, Chanturiya and the persons accompanying him left for Moscow to give a news conference to Soviet and foreign journalists on September 18.

The news conference was planned to be held under the auspices of the Democratic Russia Movement. According to Zumbadze, several other important meetings had been planned.

Zumbadze said he will address a news conference in the journalist's Central Club at three p.m. today. (as is known, a news conference of lawyers of the arrested putschists is planned for the same time).

Party Member Released

OW1709141091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vakhtang Kalakhadze, a leading member of Georgia's National Democratic Party detained Monday night at the Tbilisi Airport together with the party chairman Georgiy Chanturiya and press secretary Irina Savishvili, has been set free.

After detention, he was kept at the airport's police station from where he was released at noon on Tuesday, he told newsmen in Tbilisi. According to Kalakhadze, G Chanturiya and is wife Irina Savishvili were taken to the city at once and, as it transpired later, placed in the detention center of Georgia's Interior Ministry.

G. Chanturiya, V. Kalakhadze, and I. Savishvili were flying to Moscow to meet with the American Ambassador Robert Strauss and with Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Besides, they intended to give a press conference in the Soviet capital. The plane they had boarded was ordered to return to Tbilisi Airport 20 minutes after its take-off, and the three were detained.

In the meantime in Moscow, Georgia's acting envoy Kakha Lomaya told newsmen on Tuesday that he has no exact information as to the reason why the chairman of the National Democratic Party Georgiy Chanturiya was detained. According to Lomaya, he might have bee detained in connection with the "disturbances" taking place in Tbilisi. Lomaya said that he did not know what Chanturiya was charged with.

According to Lomaya, a way out of the political crisis in Georgia should be sought on the road of dialogue between Georgia's present leadership and parliamentary opposition.

Government Spokesman on Arrest

OW1709194291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgiy Burdzhanadze, the Georgian president's press secretary, has announced that the leader of the opposition Georgian National Democratic Party, Georgiy Chanturiya, was arrested for breach of the peace and not for political reasons. He is accused of organising the construction by the opposition of barricades on Prospect Rustaveli in Tbilisi.

Georgiy Chanturiya was arrested at Tbilisi airport last night (16th September) together with another of the National Democratic Party's leaders Vakhtang Kalakhadze and party press secretary Irina Savishvili. The plane on which they were flying to Moscow for a meeting with the U.S. Ambassador and a press conference was turned back to Tbilisi twenty minutes after take-off. Mr. Kalakhadze was released on 17th September at midday.

An IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent in Tbilisi reports that an opposition meeting is now taking place on Prospect Rustaveli in front of the Georgian National Independence Party headquarters. Speaking at the meeting, the party leader Irakliy Tsereteli stated that "the arrest of the opposition leaders was organised by the president himself, whose actions are nowadays very unpredictable". He also revealed that Chanturiya and Savishvili were no longer in solitary confinement at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where they had been taken after their arrest but had been removed to an unknown destination.

The IF's correspondent says that a meeting between Georgian Supreme Soviet Chairman Akakiy Asatiani and opposition leaders is possible for Tuesday evening.

Officials on Detentions

LD1809061191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The fate of the representatives of the National Democratic Party arrested in Georgia on 17 September still worries the world public. We promised in our programs to keep you up to date with the details of this story. Here is our correspondent in Tbilisi, Tengiz Oblotiya.

[Oblotiya] As we all know, early in the morning of September 17 the leaders of the National Democratic Party of Georgia were detained at Tbilisi Airport. A little while later Vakhtang Kalakhadze, member of the main committee of this party, was released. Georgiy Chanturiya and Irina Savishvili were taken to an unknown destination. But what is the most interesting is that no one can tell specifically where they are. A group of activists of the National Democratic Party has organized a picket line by the building of the television and radio committee, which was supported by the leading television journalists.

At 1600 a news conference was given by Georgiy Burdzhanadze, the press secretary of the president of Georgia. The press secretary had to make an effort to answer or evade some of the sharp questions by Western

journalists. Some very interesting facts were revealed. It seems that no one knows who gave the order to return the aircraft to the airport, which could have the most serious consequences. Our president, it seems, does not deal with aviation questions. The prosecutor did not sanction the arrest, and the minister of internal affairs knew nothing at all. From this one can conclude that no one knew anything. When asked by the IPRINGA correspondent whether force would be used against other opposition activists, the press secretary dismissed such a possibility. Tengiz Oblotiya, of the Georgian Information Agency IPRINGA, specially for the news service.

Spokesman Explains Arrest

LD1809123191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1155 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tbilisi, 18 Sep (TASS)—Georgiy Burdzhanadze, the press secretary of the president of Georgia, has said that Georgiy Chanturiya, chairman of the republic's National Democratic Party was arrested with two of his associates for organizing antisocial actions, in particular, blocking Tbilisi's central highway with barricades, Eduard Ediberidze, correspondent of the "SAKINFORM" agency, reports. Speaking at a press conference held here yesterday evening, the press secretary stated that they were arrested "not for political reasons."

Georgiy Burdzhanadze rejected assertions that the leadership of Georgia intended to deal arbitrarily with its political opponents, and that arrests of opposition leaders are imminent.

Dealing with the position of the Georgian president regarding the opposition, he said that the republic's leadership is in favor of a constructive dialogue with all political parties and organizations, no matter what their orientation.

Situation 'Aggravated' by Arrest

OW1709111091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tensions in Tbilisi further aggravated when the leader of Georgia's National Democratic Party Georgiy Chanturiya was arrested Monday night, reports IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent. Today, the opposition forces intend to launch at 15:00 a demonstration of protest in the city's main thoroughfare, Rustaveli Avenue.

G. Chanturiya along with prominent members of his party Irina Savishvili and Vakhtang Kalakhadze was arrested at about 23:00 local time in Tbilisi's airport. The plane which was carrying them to Moscow was ordered to return to Tbilisi 20 minutes after its take-off. G. Chanturiya was going to Moscow to meet with the U.S. Ambassador. Besides, he intended to give a press conference in the Soviet capital on Wednesday. Georgia's prosecutor-general told IF's correspondent that he had not authorized the arrest of G. Chanturiya, I. Savishvili, and V. Kalakhadze. No charges were made during their arrest.

IF's correspondent did not manage to obtain further information at Georgia's Interior Ministry.

Meanwhile, G. Chanturiya's supporters intend to give a press conference in Moscow after all—at the time appointed previously: on Wednesday at 14:00 [1100 GMT] in the press hall of Moscow's Sverdlov District Council, 22, Petrovka St.

Another Leader Arrested

OW1809124991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgiy Khaindrava, a leading member of the opposition National Congress, was arrested outside the Georgian National Democratic Party [NDP] headquarters in Tbilisi on Tuesday night.

His brother Ivlian told IF's [INTERFAX] reporter that Georgiy had been arrested by plainclothed men who had shown him "some kind of an identification card"

When the reporter turned for explanations to the Georgian KGB and the Interior Ministry's press center, he was told they knew nothing about the arrest. The republic's Deputy Procurator General Vakhtang Gvaramia said he did not know anything, either.

One day earlier, on September 16, the NDP leader Georgiy Chanturiya had been arrested at Tbilisi Airport together with his colleagues Vakhtang Kalakhadze and Irina Savishvili. Mr. Kalakhadze was released at noon on Tuesday.

Asatiani Calls for Supreme Council Elections

OW1709195091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, Akakiy Asatiani, announced at a demonstration in Tbilisi that the present composition of the Supreme Soviet does not reflect the state of political forces in Georgia and therefore should be re-elected. According to the Georgian permanent mission in Moscow, Asatiani made the statement on behalf of the leadership of the Union of Georgian Traditionalists, the strongest association within the right-wing "Free Georgia-Round Table".

The dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and the calling of fresh elections was one of the main demands made at opposition demonstrations. The opposition is also calling for the resignation of President Gamsakhurdia.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of representatives of Georgian opposition movements and parties the Social Democratic Party suggested initiating negotiations between the opposition and Gamsakhurdia. The Social Democrats, referring to a preparatory conversation with the head of parliament, Akakiy Asatiani, said that President Gamsakhurdia had agreed to talks. However, the opposition said that any negotiations were conditional on the release of National Democrat leader, Georgiy Chanturiya, and the possibility to address the nation on television.

National Guard Pledges to Side With People

LD1709225191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Things remain complicated in Georgia. Calls for the president's resignation are continuing. The opposition forces demand the setting up of a transition government. Out of the three leaders of Georgia's National Democratic Party, only one, Vakhtang Kalalkhadze, has been released. Chanturiya, the party's chairman, has gone on a hunger strike. Tengiz Kitovani, commander of the National Guard of the republic of Georgia, stated today that the subunits of national Guard men he commands will not interfere in the course of political events in the republic.

If the president of Georgia takes up arms against his own people, the guard will come out on the side of the people. According to Kitavani, the national Guard is capable of fielding 10,000 armed fighters.

Political 'Shadowboxing' in Republic Viewed

PM1709104791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2

[V. Urigashvili report: "Georgian President Rejects Compromise With Opposition"]

[Text] It appears that people in Tbilisi are getting used to rallies and other protest actions; quarrels between people at newspaper kiosks and in other places where the politicized section of society congregates are also becoming customary. True, they are not so fierce; at any rate, people do try at least to hear one another out. Something that cannot be said for the politicians. They appear to be banging their heads against a brick wall. On the one hand furious statements, petitions, and demands passing through several print runs—the official press—and, on the other, opposition leaflets and proclamations rule out the possibility of dialogue, in the opinion of many observers. The situation is close to stalemate.

On 11 September the numerous protest actions were joined by one more. Representatives of the intelligentsia took up position on the steps of Tbilisi University for an indefinite sit-down strike. The participants in the action included such leading lights of Georgian cinema as Eldar Shengelaya and Lana Gogoberidze. The start of the action was preceded by a sizable rally addressed by, among others, Meraba Kostava, widow of the late leader of the Georgian National Liberation Movement, whose name is revered by authorities and opposition alike.

At the rally a statement was adopted categorically demanding the president's resignation. This statement was signed by leaders of the overwhelming majority of Georgia's serious political parties and organizations. Among the signatories was the organization "Democratic Choice for Georgia," thanks to whose efforts the law on multiparty elections was adopted last fall.

I asked the organization's leader Revaz Shavishvili to assess the constitutionality of the demands put forward by the opposition and the degree to which they are realistic. In his opinion there is nothing unconstitutional in the opposition demands, since they do not call for the overthrow of the authorities by violence.

"As for how realistic they are," R. Shashvili continued, "that is more complex; we simply believe that the president has crossed certain bounds, after which he has no moral right to remain in his post. The Special Purpose Militia Detachment fired on a peaceful demonstration."

Without presuming to make a firm comment on this statement, I will say only that it once again proves that there is far more emotion than sober calculation in contemporary Georgian politics. Whether the opposition likes it or not, Gamsakhurdia is supported today by an impressive proportion of Georgian society. Especially on the periphery, in the worker-peasant milieu.

But perhaps still more depressing in this situation is the virtual unwillingness or inability of the authorities to make any compromises whatever. Personally I find this difficult to explain, especially in a situation where the leadership knows perfectly well that that there are armed people on both sides of the barricades. In such a situation, the agenda for the second session of the Georgian Republic Supreme Council, scheduled for 15 September, looks like an overt challenge. Only the last item, Item 20, refers to the formation of a Georgian Republic Supreme Council Commission to examine the incident which occurred in Tbilisi 2 September. Item 18 on the agenda raises the question of liability for violating the procedure for organizing and holding rallies, demonstrations, and other actions of a political nature, and Item 19 raises the actual procedure for organizing the holding of rallies, demonstrations, and other actions of a political nature.

The situation is also being exacerbated by Georgian television, which is fully under the official authorities' control. Its main news program is entirely absorbed in some arcane metaphysical area, and broadcasts virtually no news. It mainly broadcasts collective letters from working people and statements by elderly women which in their subject matter are more reminiscent of the conjurations of shamans. Protesting against this, several dozen television workers have declared a strike. Add to this the refusal to print or distribute central newspapers

which make any statements whatsoever about the events in Georgia, the periodic blackouts of Central Television and Russian Television programs, and the picture becomes entirely clear. And not a day goes by without the official press publishing sensational scandal stories about Shevardnadze.

The shadowboxing continues.

'Quiet' Situation in South Ossetia Reported

LD1709151191 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Valerij Shanaev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 17 TASS—It was relatively quiet in the past twenty four hours in South Ossetia. There were occasional shootings in the suburbs of Tskhinvali and remote villages of the Znaur region. There were no casualty reports.

Militants took 13 hostages last night from among the locals of the Artsevi Village of the Leningor District, according to reports of the press centre of the South Ossetian Information Committee. Armed groups from various parts of Georgia were spotted concentrating on the Znaur highway.

Though power, gas and water supply systems are now functioning in Tskhinvali, the city remains in an economic blockade. Enterprises are working at half capacity because of lack of supplies. The railway station and all construction sites are not functioning. Schools are closed.

The unstable situation in South Ossetia results in a huge flow of refugees. According to the Interior Ministry of the neighbouring North Ossetia, there will be some 100 thousand refugees by wintertime.

Armenia

Trade Minister Says Cooperation Wards Off Famine

OW1709200591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Acting Trade Minister Razmik Danielyan told a news conference in Yerevan September 17 that for at least the next 6 months Armenia will not face famine thanks to the activities of the Trade Ministry during the last month and a half, in particular, the establishment of mutually advantageous contacts between the center and the republics. He said that Armenia has concluded agreements with the Ukraine on shipments of sugar and with the Baltic states on shipments of meat products and butter. In the words of Mr. Danielyan, Armenia managed to get from the central funds "a considerable amount of goods worth 140 million rubles earlier earmarked for the nine republics willing to discuss the Union treaty" (Armenia was not among these republics).

Freight Cars Detained at Azerbaijan Border

NC1709162991 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Yerevan, 17 Sep (ARMENPRES)—On Azerbaijan's border, 2,480 freight cars carrying various goods for the national economy have been detained. Nakhichevan has blockaded the railway into Armenia since 12 September.

[Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian at 1500 GMT on 17 September quotes a senior engineer at Yerevan railway station Sergey Bagdasaryan as saying that Armenia "sustained substantial economic losses" due to the blockade. He added that "negotiations are under way to resolve the situation." He also noted that "the railway entering from Georgia is working" and through this railway Armenia has received foodstuffs, "a substantial amount of fuel and various types of construction material."]

Armenian KGB Files Returned to Yerevan

LD1709222691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Archives and current files of the Committee of State Security of Armenia, which had been evacuated from the republic to Smolensk at the beginning of last year on the pretext of exacerbation of the situation, were returned to Yerevan today. Our correspondent Koryun Khumaryan was informed that this issue was resolved positively after the change in the situation in our country took place and Vadim Bakatin became the head of the Union committee.

Interior Minister Comments on Forces in Republic

LD1709220391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Comments by Armenian Interior Minister A. Manucharyan to an unidentified reporter; date and place not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Manucharyan] In concert with the ministries of internal affairs of other republics, we agreed to set up a service like Interpol, a service like the blue helmets. The blue helmets are for cases of interethnic conflicts. Their role is to separate the sides.

[Reporter] What changes does the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs expect to take place in the near future?

[Manucharyan] A municipal militia, a federal militia, will come into being. A flying squad will be attached to the financial inspectorate. [video shows minister being interviewed]

Deputy Soviet Army Commander Commits Suicide

NC1709183291 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Yerevan, 17 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Major General Vladimir Kurtsev, deputy commander of the 7th Army stationed in Armenia, has committed suicide here. Mikhail Sorokin, chief of the political department of the Yerevan garrison, has told a RESPUBLIKA ARMENII correspondent that it has nothing to do with the coup in Moscow. The general did not have a normal family life and, according to rumors, was a heavy drinker.

Armenian Law on Religion

91US0625B

For this law published in the 28 June 1991 GOLOS ARMENII, see the FBIS Report Soviet Union: Republic Affairs, FBIS-USR-91-016, dated 23 July 1991, pp 14-16.

Azerbaijan

Turkish Foreign Ministry Official Meets Mutalibov

NC1709172191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] President Ayaz Mutalibov today received Inal Simsir, director of the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry's Political Affairs Department. Matters related to improving the political, economic, and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey were discussed in detail. Inal Simsir said Turkey welcomes the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence. He also noted that Turkey is prepared to seek ways to further improve the cooperation between the two republics.

On his part, President Mutalibov thanked the Turkish people and government for their support and fraternal feelings.

An agreement was reached on all the matters that were discussed during the sincere meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Meets With Opposition

OW1609172691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 15 September Inal Simsir, general director of the political department of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, met with the leaders of the Azerbaijani National Front and the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party.

As Isa Gambarov, temporary representative of the Azerbaijani National Front's Executive Committee, announced in an interview with "INTERFAX", the meeting had an informative character. According to his words, Inal Simsir expressed an interest in a closer familiarization with the democratic processes in the republic. I. Gambarov pointed out that this was the first contact between the Azerbaijani National Front leadership and an official representative of a foreign state.

In his turn, the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party (ASDP) representative, Araz Alizade, told the "INTERFAX" correspondent that in the conversation with Simsir the ASDP leadership expressed its point of view on the path to attainment of the republic's real sovereignty, as a result of the recent announcement on the restoration of state independence. The Turkish diplomat was familiarized with the ASDP's programme and with the party's parliamentary activity.

Election Commission Declares Mutalibov President

LD1809062191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1532 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent A. Amashov]

[Text] Baku, 17 Sep (TASS)—In the communique issued today by the Central Electoral Commission for the presidential elections in Azerbaijan, it has been decreed that Ayaz Mutalibov is to be regarded as the elected president of the Republic.

The communication points out that 3,879,988 voters were registered in the 90 electoral districts of the Republic; 3,325,163 voters, or 85.7 percent of the total number of voters, took part in the election; and 3,275,837 votes were for Mutalibov, which represents 98.5 percent of the total number of citizens who took part in the voting. There were 48,866 votes, 1.5 percent, against him, and 460 voting papers were declared invalid.

Mutalibov Replaces Azerbaijan KGB Chairman

NC1709164591 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Decree by President Ayaz Mutalibov on the replacement of the chairman of the Azerbaijan Committee for State Security:

1. V. Aliovsat oglu Guseynov is to be relieved of his post as the chairman of the Azerbaijan Committee for State Security.

2. I. Guseyn oglu Kerimov, who has executed the duties of this post, is to be appointed as the chairman of the Azerbaijan Committee for State Security.

[Signed] Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Baku City; 13 September 1991.

Congrees Agrees To Disband Communist Party

NC1709172591 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Azerbaijan Communist Party held an extraordinary congress today. Only one item was included on the agenda: The disbanding of the Azerbaijan Communist Party.

After a debate and exchange of views on this matter, the congress adopted a decision for the self-disbandment of the Azerbaijan Communist Party. President Mutalibov made a speech to sum up the congress.

Aliyev Briefs Majlis on Talk With Ter-Petrosyan

NC1709172391 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Majlis Presidium has held a regular meeting. The participants were briefed on the telephone conversation between Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, and Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

According to information given the meeting by Geydar Aliyev, he demanded that measures be taken to end the raids on passenger and freight trains which travel through the Megri railway station and on the Azerbaijan railway tracks along the common border of the two republics, to end kidnapping, and end the theft of cattle. Aliyev said that Ter-Petrosyan congratulated him on his election as the chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis and noted that Armenia is interested in cooperating with the Nakhichavan Autonomous Republic. Aliyev also asserted that the Armenian side is prepared to meet with the leaders of the autonomous republic.

The meeting also examined the question of the coverage given to the developments in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic by the Azerbaijan mass media. According to the meeting participants, the Azerbaijan mass media organs, AZERINFORM excluded, have not covered the developments in the autonomous republic.

Aliyev Protests Information, Economic 'Blockade'

PM1709113791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Geydar Aliyev's Protest Against Azerbaijan Authorities' Actions"]

[Text] TASS has received a telegram from Geydar Aliyev, head of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, protesting against "undemocratic actions organized by the Communist leadership of Azerbaijan" relating to "the democratic processes under way in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic."

The message states: "An information and economic blockade of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has recently been organized by the Communist leadership of Azerbaijan." By way of an example, the author cites the fact that "Azerbaijan media organs gave absolutely no coverage to the work of the regular five-day Supreme Majlis session."

Rail Service in Nakhichevan Resumes

NC1709142791 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The outcome of search operations to find the two Azerbaijani shepherds, who were kidnapped by armed Armenians, is tragic. According to a report from the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet press center, which has been confirmed by the Azerbaijan Republic Ministry of Internal Affairs, the bodies of the two shepherds were discovered in an area close to the Armenian border.

The report also said the Yerevan-Kafan passenger train, which was halted in the Ordubadskiy Rayon a few days ago, has been released to travel to Kafan in the neighboring republic. The movement on the railway tracks in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has been completely restored at present.

'Armed Terrorists' Block Section of Railroad

LD1709215291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] There is a report from Azerbaijan that because of the extremist actions by Armenian guerrillas, train traffic has been completely halted on the Megri section of the Azerbaijan railway. A small section of the railway passes through Armenian territory. Lately it has become truly a road of life for the over 300,000 inhabitants of the Nakhichevan Autonmous Republic. Some 2,000 railway cars with food, fuel, and other cargo bound both for Nakhichevan and Iran have accumulated on the approaches there.

The track through Armenia has been blocked by armed terrorists. Crowds are continuing to threaten the railwaymen. This has forced the head of the Azerbaijan railway to issue a statement that was circulated today by the AZERINFORM News Agency for the republic's press. It says that Azerbaijan's railwaymen have repeatedly informed the law enforcement bodies of the country and Armenia of the escalation of terrorist actions by the separatists. However, no measures have been taken.

OMON Stages 'Massive' Attack on Village

OW1709175891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday, at about 5 p.m., local time, Azerbaijan's special militia units (OMON) launched a massive offensive against the village of Karachinar in the Geranboy (former Shaumyan) region of Azerbaijan.

According to the Armenian information agency NORUTYUN SERVICE, two days earlier, the village had been won over from the Azerbaijan OMON by the Armenian self-defence units. According to this agency, the attackers are being backed by artillery and armoured vehicles. Village resident Valeriy Gaboyan [name as received] was killed and several people were wounded.

The populated area Manashid in the same region, also occupied by Armenians, is being shelled, too.

Armenian Units Respond

OW1809130591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Armenian news agency NORUTYUN SERVICE, on Wednesday morning Armenian self-defense units ousted Azerbaijani OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] from the village of Erkech in the Geranboy (formerly Shaumyanovsk) district of Azerbaijan.

A few hours earlier, OMON commandos had seized the Armenian village of Manashid, but armed Armenians had forced them to retreat, leaving civilian homes aflame behind.

NORUTYUN SERVICE says hostilities are now under way between OMON and Armenian self-defense units near the Armenian villages of Karachinar, Gakhtut, and Norshen in the Geranboy district, and fire exchanges have been heard between the Armenian village of Verishen and the Azerbaijani village of Todan. An earlier fire attack on Karachinar took the life of 68-year-old Garighin Ovanyan [name as received].

The news agency puts the Armenian side's losses in the past 48 hours at 2 people killed and 7 others wounded.

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Measures To Normalize Situation Expected

LD1809142891 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to sign a decree shortly on measures to normalise the situation in Narogno-Karabakh.

TASS has learned that the document is being drawn up jointly by experts from the offices of the USSR and Russian presidents. Russian "White House" sources do not rule out the possibility that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is to start his visit to Narogno-Karabakh on Thursday, will discuss the forthcoming decree in this or that form with the conflicting sides.

Narogno-Karabakh is an Armenian enclave in the territory of Azerbaijan. It is the object of bloody strife between the two neighbouring republics over several past years. The conflict has claimed the lives of at least 250 people, including Armenians, Azerbaijanians and people of other nationalities, primarily servicemen dispatched to that area. All previous attempts by central and republican authorities to find a mutually acceptable solution to this inter-ethnic conflict have so far been futile.

Armored Vehicles Shell Azerbaijani Village

LD1709232191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to the latest information, the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast remains tense. As a Studinform representative was told by Manaf Agayev, deputy plenipotentiary representative of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani village of (Shafag) in Geranboyskiy rayon, was shelled this morning. Six armored vehicles did the shelling, and there are dead and wounded. The deported inhabitants of the village have asked the Red Cross to help remove the bodies of their slain relatives.

'Slave Trade' Generated Throughout Region

LD1709175591 Moscow TASS in English 0751 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert September 16 TASS—The current wave of violence and hostage-taking in Nagorno Karabakh, the disputed enclave in Azerbaijan, has generated a humiliating "slave" trade in the region with a human life being valued from 5,000 to 200,000 roubles.

Armenian hostages captured last May and kept in a prison in the city of Shusha say they were released in exchange for a several thousand rouble ransom.

They refused however to document their story or appeal to a public prosecutor.

"I have suffered quite enough and do not want to get into this hell again," a 27-year-old Armenian teacher from Shusha District says.

The Gasanov brothers from Shusha taken hostage by Armenians in the beginning of August were set free for a ransom of 50,000 roubles.

On August 16, Azeris captured a group of 11 field workers near the village of Nakhichevanik in Askeran District and demanded a ransom of 300,000 roubles. Having realised they had made a mistake, they soon began bargaining for 200,000 roubles or ten submachine-guns for one hostage and 200,000 for another. The rest were freed on September 1 for 50,000 roubles, the region commandant's office reports.

They said they were kept in a country house and forced to work like plantation slaves. Their food was bad and they were beaten for talking Armenian.

Mavrik Gukasyan, chief of the Askeran Police Office, told TASS he opposes exchanges for money, fearing it may start a chain-reaction.

Four more Armenians were exchanged for an 18-year-old Azerbaijani girl, who was released with a paper saying no violence had been committed to her.

Other hostages are awaiting their turn being however unaware whether they will be exchanged for people of other nationalities, a cow, a sheep or will simply be sold.

Kazakhstan

Cossak-Kazakh Clashes in Uralsk Averted

LD1709172591 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The situation in the city of Uralsk: As has become known from official sources, on 14-15 September in the city of Uralsk the local Culture and History Society and the Vozrozhdeniye [Regeneration] Committee held a celebration for the Cossack anniversary, despite categorical objections from the city and oblast soviets of people's deputies, considering the specific socio-political situation which had come about in the oblast. But unfortunately Cossack representatives from the Don, Kuban, North Caucasus, South Urals, and Siberia were invited. During the holding of these functions the participants unfurled the tricolor flag with the emblem of the Russian Empire. All of this caused vigorous protest on the part of students in the oblast center, and also members of the Azat, Zheltokstan, and Nevada-Semipalatinsk movements, who had come from Alma Ata, Chimkent, Dzhambul, Aktyubinsk, and a number of other cities of the republic. There wase a threat of direct clashes between the opposing sides. In the explosive situation, the city populace displayed restraint and wisdom. Thanks to this, by the efforts of soviet and law enforcement agencies, a dramatic development of the course of events was prevented. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev Protest to Yeltsin

LD1709214391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], today sent a personal message to Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. This is connected with the incident which took place on 14 and 15 September in the town of Uralsk when the local Cossack cultural-historical society and the Vozrozhdeniye [Regeneration] committee celebrated the Cossack anniversary.

The message assesses as essentially provocative the celebration in the town of Uralsk of the 400th anniversary of the Urals Cossacks' service to the Russian state, held despite the categorical objection of the local authorities. Holding the celebrations under the Russian flag on the territory of Kazakhstan was seen by the population and social movements of the republic as a political act demonstrating open disrespect for the state sovereignty of the Kazakh SSR. The consequence of this was active opposition which took the form of a protest demonstration attended by many thousands of people, and interethnic incidents. A serious threat arose to civic accord and socio-political stability in the republic. It was only thanks to the efforts of the local authorities and the taking of operational measures that they managed to avoid a dramatic outcome of the events, the message says.

The leader of Kazakhstan considers it the duty of both sides to protect in every way the traditional centuries-old friendship between the peoples of Russia and Kazakhstan, to strengthen soveriegnty, and to insure the territorial integrity of both states.

Decree Centralizes Press, TV Committees

LD1709233191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] A decree by Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev on scrapping the republican committees for the press, television, and broadcasting, and the main directorate for the preservation of state secrets in the press and other mass media, was issued today. All these departments are being handed over to the management of the republic's Ministry of the Press and Mass Information. The creation of a single roof for journalists will make it possible to ensure real freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Nazarbayev Signs Decree on Privatization

LD1809122491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, has signed a decree on a privatization program for state-owned assets in the Republic. The decree envisages special coupons which would compensate citizens for their contribution to the creation of material wealth.

Government To Set Up Mineral Resources Institute

LD1809043891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] In Karaganda, an institute for the problems of the comprehensive development of mineral resources is to be set up under the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic Academy of Sciences. The Republic's Government adopted a decision on this today. The main task of the new scientific institution is the study of mineral deposits and the theoretical substantiation and working out of non-traditional techniques for forecasting the development of the mining industry.

Kyrgyzstan

Turkish Foreign Ministry Official on Independence

OW1609184291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkey is ready to recognize the republic of Kyrgyzstan's independence, said head of the Turkish delegation, General Director of Turkey's Foreign Ministry Inal Simsir in Bishkek, the republican capital. According to Simsir, Turkey is ready to give economic aid to Kyrgyzstan during the transitional period and to

establish direct diplomatic relations. Turkey may open a representative office in Bishkek.

In Kyrgyzstan the Turkish delegation met with the republican premier Nasirdin Isanov, vice-president German Kuznetsov and the leaders of the republican democratic movement.

Tajikistan

Communist Party Congress Set for 21 Oct

LD1709232991 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan reports that the extraordinary 22d congress of the Communist Party of the republic will begin on 21 October 1991 in the great hall of the republic for political education. The questions related to the preparations for the congress were examined at the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee session. [passage omitted]

Nabiyev, Maksumov Named Presidential Candidates

LD1709232391 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The people of the Yangiturmush state farm in Kolkhozobodskiy rayon have proposed Rakhman nabiyev as a candidate for the post of Tajikistan president at their meeting. The workers of the institute for scientific research for the agriculture of Tajikistan nominated Akbar Maksumov for this post.

Uzbekistan

French Defense Minister Visits Tashkent

NC1809085791 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe visited Uzbekistan during a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR defense minister. The Tashkent airport was decorated with the flags of France and the Republic of Uzbekistan in honor of the guest. President Islam Karimov met with Joxe on 16 September and briefed him (?on the current situation in Uzbekistan). It was noted that the law enacted by the extraordinary congress of the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet on the basic principles of the republic's independence set in motion an era of development in Uzbekisan which has paved the way for the establishment of relations between Uzebkistan and other countries based on mutual interest; enabled human rights to be defended in Uzbekistan; and made it possible for the republic to participate in the new union, which is an economic establishment.

Issues related to the armed forces deployed on the republic's border will have to be resolved through the talks that will be held with the Uzbek Government. The Uzbekistan Defense Ministry has already been established.

Joxe was appreciative of the briefing and said that he will inform President Mitterrand on his observations, including his views on Uzbekistan's peaceful foreign policy and wishes to develop its economic and trade relations with foreign countries.

Joxe Meets Karimov

LD1709102891 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Tashkent September 16 TASS—"Having proclaimed independence, we do not intend to secede from the Soviet Union," Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov said today.

Karimov spoke during a meeting with visiting French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe, who had arrived here on Sunday.

Karimov favoured developing Uzbek-French technological, scientific and cultural cooperation. He believes that now it is necessary to invigorate setting up joint ventures and allow them to export capital.

Joint ventures should create new working places and train the local population in new advanced professions, Karimov believes.

"We believe the Soviet Union's problems and relations between republics are related not only to your country, but the interests of security and balance in Europe," Joxe said.

Later in the day, Joxe met Turkestan Military District Commander Ivan Fuzhenko and visited the Tashkent Tank School.

Joxe Concludes Visit

LD1709205591 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Pierre Joxe, French minister of defense, has visited the republic of Uzbekistan as part of his official visit to our country. This is what our correspondent reports from Tashkent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent O. Ganiyeva] Joxe, the French minister of defense, and the party accompanying him began their acquaintance with the republic with a visit to the headquarters of the Red banner-bearing Turkestan Military District. The French defense minister then met Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, who acquainted the guest with the socio-political situation in the republic. Questions concerning the

Uzbek Ministry for Defense and National Guard Affairs, which was recently formed here, were touched upon during the conversation.

[Joxe, in French with superimposed Russian translation] This is my first visit to Central Asia, although in the past I have visited the Soviet Union more than once. We had a meeting with the president of Uzbekistan, where we had the opportunity to learn about prospects for the republic's economic and political development. So, it was not only questions of defense that were the main subject of our conversation. [video shows minister's limousine drawing up outside building; Joxe welcomed by officials; two sides in discussion across table; Joxe being interviewed] [end recording]

[Moscow All-union Radio Mayak Network in Russian at 1630 GMT on 17 September reported that Joxe left Tashkent for Paris today]

Karimov Appoints Makhmudova Foreign Minister

OW1709184291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, has appointed Shakhlo Makhmudova, 43, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan. Mrs. Makhmudova is a graduate of the Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry, and held various posts in the Young Communist League and the Communist Party of Uzbekistan. She was moved to the post of foreign minister from the post of second secretary of the Tashkent Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan.

Her predecessor, Mr. Savar Azimov, was freed from his duties in accordance with section 3 of Article 120 of the Constitution of Uzbekistan, which says that members of government cannot be older than 60.

Karimov Issues Decree on Departyization

LD1709171591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Uzbekistan President Karimov issued a decree today on departyization. Henceforth in the republic it is prohibited from creating organizational structures of political parties and movements in institutions of the state apparatus and in the public education system.

End To Gdlyan, Ivanov Investigation Criticized

PM1809144791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[TASS correspondent report: "They Do Not Agree With USSR General Prosecutor's Decision"]

[Text] Tashkent, 13 Sep—Some 83 USSR people's deputies from Uzbekistan and a number of other republics have opposed USSR General Prosecutor N. Trubin's decision to drop the criminal case against USSR People's Deputies T. Gdlyan and N. Ivanov. The newspaper PRAVDA VOSTOKA, which comes out here, has published a letter from deputies condemning Trubin's inconsistency.

"Trubin, who has already shown his worth during the putsch, is trying to cling to his post after initiating nasty games in contravention of the law and human rights," the letter says. "The USSR general prosecutor's decision to rehabilitate Gdlyan and Ivanov was adopted in spite of the views of the investigators in charge of the said case."

Backed up by many documents, the deputies claim that "along with justifiably bringing to justice a number of bribe-takers in Uzbekistan and Moscow, T. Gdlyan, N. Ivanov, and the investigators under their leadership committed mass repressions against completely innocent citizens."

The letter says that "there is sufficient evidence in the case materials to bring charges against Gdlyan and Ivanov for committing a number of crimes, serious crimes included. USSR General Prosecutor Trubin informed the USSR president about this very recently, on 12 July 1991. But now, influenced by the events which have taken place in the country, Trubin has reached a completely opposite and unlawful conclusion based on the same evidence and materials."

The USSR people's deputies from Uzbekistan resolved to demand that the republic's prosecutor intercede to institute criminal proceedings against and to carry out an autonomous investigation into Gdlyan and Ivanov. As representatives of an independent sovereign republic—they write—we retain the right to appeal to the United Nations for an independent investigation of the aforementioned persons' actions.